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暴食の ベルセラク

Berserk of Gluttony

俺だけレベルという概念を突破する

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Berserk of Gluttony

– The One That Exceeds The Concept Of Levels –

- Volume 1 -

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[Nega Translations]

- STORY -

Fate, who is a gatekeeper in the castle, has some troubles.

It is the feeling of hunger that constantly attacks because of the skill that he has had since birth. He thought that it was a useless skill that only made him hungry, but in reality there was a hidden power.

One day, when Fate killed a thief who snuck into the castle, he noticed it's true power.

It is a skill that eats the soul of the subject that he kills and takes away all their powers... And, the feeling of hunger was satisfied for the first time.

Starting with that, the man who had been treated like trash slowly raised his head. Exceeding the concept of the levels, he became a terror with his strength, and then he was called...



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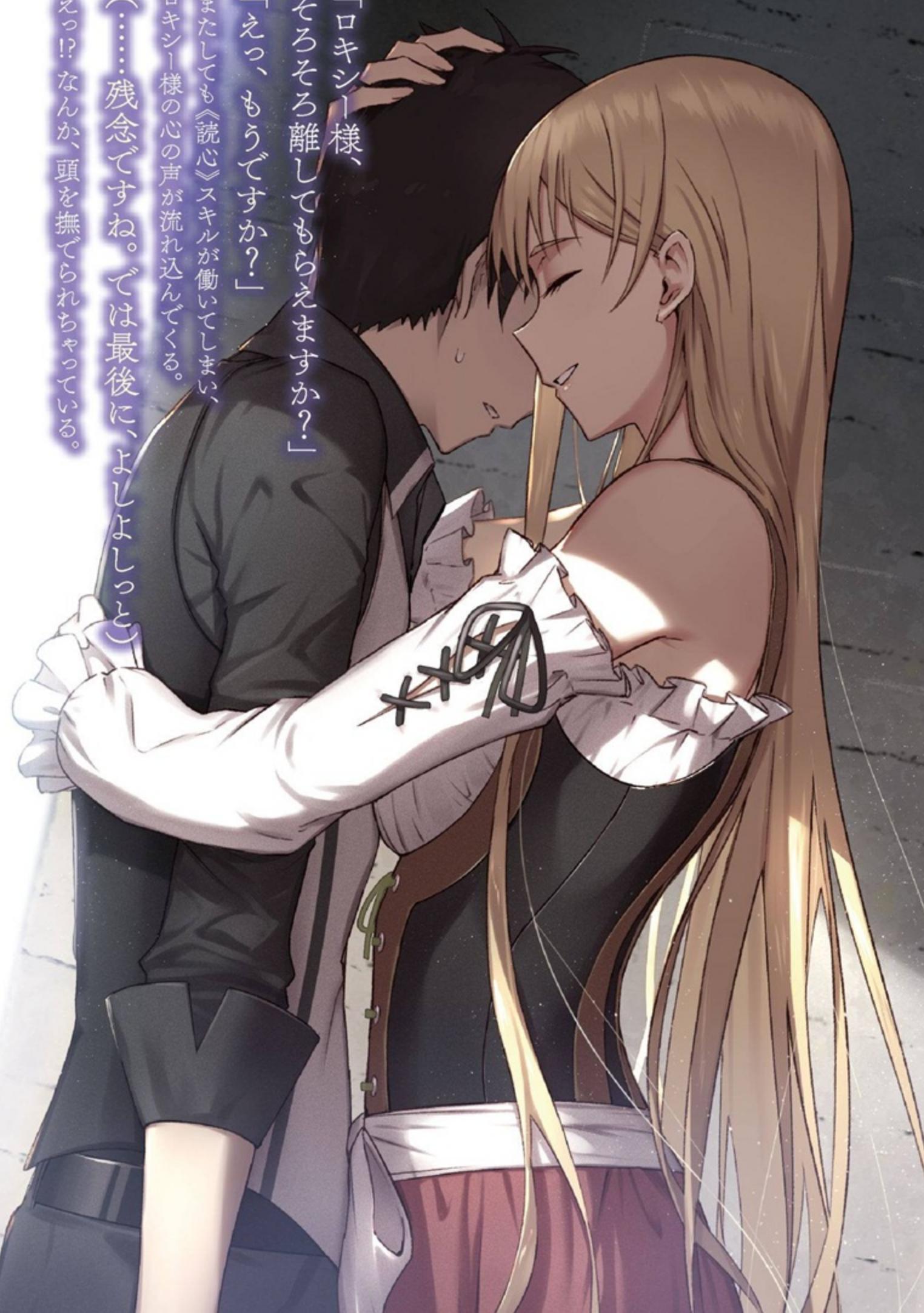
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「リツチだああ！
ムクロが出たつ、
みんな逃げろ！」

厳つい顔をした武人の男が、
髑髏マスクを付けた俺を見ると、
顔を青くして逃げていく。

最近、俺は通称ムクロと
呼ばれるようになった。
何故かと言うと、
ゴブリンたちの死体（骸）の山の上で
佇んでいるのをよく目撃される
という理由からだ。



「ロキシー様、
そろそろ離してもらえますか？」

「えつ、もうですか？」

またしても《読心》スキルが働いてしまい、
ロキシー様の心の声が流れ込んでくる。

(……残念ですね。では最後に、よしよしつと)

えつ!? なんか、頭を撫でられちゃっている。

Chapter 1

A person who has nothing

The concept of levels exists in this world.

All of the living beings started from level 1; it's possible for them to raise their levels by obtaining experience values.

The experience values can be obtained by defeating monsters who dominate this world. However, not everyone is capable of defeating them because they are very dangerous.

Only the people who have strong attack skills are capable of defeating them.

Sometimes we already have skills after we are born, special powers gifted from God. Everyone has one or more and they live by using them. Therefore, people who have more than one skill are usually called the God's chosen ones.

I learned that from my deceased Father.

And so, the skill that I received is **Glutton**. It's troublesome skill that makes me constantly feel hungry. In the village that I was raised in, I was called a good-for-nothing and often got bullied.

I'm an unnecessary man in this world— I have nothing.

Thanks to this useless skill, after my father, who was my only relative, died because of sickness, I was driven out from the village. I went to Royal Capital Seyfar. In the big city like that, there should be something that I can do, was the my high expectation in my chest.

However, I was unable to find a decent job and ended up in the castleguard as a daily labourer.

Whether the day is raining, windy, or snowy, it's a job where I cannot move from the front of gate. Moreover, the wage is very low too.

Normally, it's not a job for commoner like me, but the Holy Knight who serve the castle. However, because of the thing called 3K (It's severe), (it's dirty), (it's dangerous), the higher-ups employed the daily labourer like me as their substitutes.

[Oi, have you been guarding well as our substitute?]

The voice came from the young Holy Knight-sama who covered his body with dazzling armor. He is my employer, one of the three siblings from Burix Family, one of five noble family on this kingdom.

The one who is arrogantly talking to me is the eldest son, Rafal. The man on his right side is the second son Hado. Their youngest sister on their back is Memir.

They are three siblings with the same frozen blue hair color. And also, all of them are excellent Holy Knights.

What is the Holy Knight? They are people who have outstanding ability in Holy Attribute among the warriors. It's an honorary title given for those who have been acknowledged by the Kingdom.

In this world, by leveling-up the strong skills, we can increase our status. Therefore, for those who have Holy attribute skills, the Holy Knights who can raise their level by fighting against the monsters, they are people from a different dimension compared to a person like me.

If I made them angry, I don't know what will happen to me.

[Yes, Rafal Burix-sama]

I kneel and bow my head down to them. Even though these fellows are irritating.

[Here, your daily wage]

Rafal throws several copper coins to my feet. The other two behind him smile scornfully at me.

[Now, pick it up. Your wage today will decrease if you didn't quickly pick-it up]

Even if he didn't say that, it's important money for me to live. I pick the coins up quickly.

And, when I was about to pick-up the last piece, my hand was stepped on by Rafal.

[Oops sorry. I didn't know there was a hand in place like this. It was so dirty that it didn't catch my eyes]

He laughed hard while stepping on my hand. Obviously he did that on purpose.

[Do not forget, we are willing to hire trashes like you. We can find your replacement

as many as we want. Do you understand that? Is that difficult for low intelligence person like you?]

[Yeah, you seem to be slacking off lately. You are doing an honorable job in exchange of us. Usually a job like this doesn't need to be paid, so you should appreciate being given money by our mercy. Do you not feel worthless picking it up?]

[It is as my older brothers have said. If you make a mistake, it will inconvenience us. I'll feel bad executing you~]

This is an educational guidance from Rafal's group to me. They try to firmly remind me where my place is. They told me that I'm a low level being, who does anything to keep staying alive, is what they drive to my core.

If I don't nod obediently, they won't allow me to pick-up the last piece. If I oppose them, they will fire me from this gatekeeper job. Furthermore, they will likely consider this as rebellion and then kill me.

Dammit. It has been five years, and yet their attitude of looking down at me like a slave hasn't changed. If, I were resign from this guard job, I'm sure Rafal will rage and accuse me of some false charges.

The irritation that matured and built up over five years welled up inside me. Anger as to why I have to obey them, and resentment towards my own weakness that made me only able to do so. And, only during these times does the skill awaken and make my stomach roar out in hunger.

Rafal thinks that I cannot eat well; he starts scolding me with severe expression.

[What a pathetic guy. You seem to not be doing your task as the gatekeeper well. We are feeding you food! Don't embarrass the Burix Family!].

He kicked me in my stomach. Even though he didn't do it seriously, the status between Holy Knight and commoner like me is like heaven and earth.

The impact of the kick was like my internal organs jumped all the way out of my mouth. While repeatedly vomiting, I could not breathe and hit the ground.

[What is that, like a maggot. It's stinky and filthy]

Although my consciousness is faint, I heard the girl's voice who is likely Memir thorugh my ears.

[Oi, get up. If you're not standing guard as gatekeeper, we will get criticized by the other Holy Knights]

Rafal tramples my face while I am still lying on the ground.

[Get up quickly!]

There is no way I can get up. As long as he doesn't move his leg aside, I cannot get up because of the differences in our strengths.

Of course, Rafal knows about it. He seems enjoyed watching me struggle under his foot.

When he puts more power into his foot, an acute pain runs in my head.
That time when I thought I might gonna die, I was saved by a dignified voice.

[Rafal, stop it. He will die. He is one of people that we need to defend so you should not do that, that's an act unworthy of a Holy Knight]

[Tsk... Today is Roxy Heart's shift, huh?]

The one who saved me was Roxy Heart, a Holy Knight that held a strange ideology among her peers; to crush the strong and save the weak. Roxy Heart's golden hair flutters in the wind, a perfect complement to her brave nature.

Heart Family is also one of five Noble Families- on this kingdom. It's a good Family that honors Justice.

Therefore they are adored by people, of course I am her fan too.

After being glared at by Roxy, Rafal's group ran away while cursing her. At that time, Rafal looks at Roxy and laughs fearlessly.

I know that face. Rafal is tenacious after all. He thought Roxiy disgraced him so he is most likely thinking to take revenge on her]

She ignored that and went forward, took my hand and raised me up. She wiped off blood flowing from my forehead with a handkerchief.



[Are you alright?]

[Yes, it's just like usual. Thank you very much for your help, Roxy-sama]

[It's alright, we are gatekeeper comrades so it's natural. Then, let's change the shift]

I bow deeply and passed the spear embroidered with the flag of Royal Family emblem to Roxy.

This spear is the proof of the gatekeeper. She is different from the other Holy Knights because she properly does the job of gatekeeper by herself.

Roxy looks worriedly at me as I release her hand.

[If they try to do something like that to you again, then leave it to-]

[No, I don't want to cause trouble for Roxy-sama. I'm already alright, so I'll get going now]

Roxy seems want to say something, but I hurry to run away from the place.

More than this, I might cause her trouble with the Burix Family. Based from their characters, I don't know what kind of dirty tricks they will use.

If, she would act like that only for me, I won't feel any more despair. I just want Roxy to keep walking on her way without hesitation. It will definitely bring happiness to the people of the kingdom.

To distract myself, I decided to go toward my regular drinking bar. The moon had risen high up in the sky when I entered the bar.

During midnight like now, there are merchants, prostitutes, travelers, etc sitting on the seats. Their faces were reddened because of the alcohol.

When I sat at the counter which was like my reserved seat, even if I didn't say anything, a glass of red wine was served.

It's the cheapest wine in this shop. It's not delicious and the taste is very sour since this is only for me to get drunk.

[Master, bread and soup]

[Gotcha]

It's burned hard bread which being baked a long time ago. The soup is tasteless

because it was boiled vegetable from the other dishes. This is my dinner. I haven't eaten meat for 5 years. The last meat I ate was small piece of dried meat. Well, I have forgotten the taste anyway.

Since I'm always hungry because of the skill, but I don't have enough money to satisfy it. So, I have to eat the meal in front of me slowly and distract myself from being hungry by even a little.

While I ate and drink the wine little by little, the bar owner talked to me.

[How is it, the work as gatekeeper?]

[It's severe]

[Is that so... I hope you won't ended up like your predecessor]

I didn't answer him back. The predecessor who had been employed by Burix Family, I heard he died because of overworking.

To have obsessive bullying and severe working hours, the status of the predecessor was as same as me. He gradually become thinner, suddenly fell down and died.

After that the bar owner witnessed the master of the Burix Family stepping on the body of my predecessor who died during patrol and as such was no longer of any use to the house. He says that even now the scene is still burned bright into his eyes, with him, never able to forget it.

Chapter 2

The Struggling Gluttony Skill

After drank my wine, I decided to go see Roxi's situation before going back to my run-down house. Because of the matter with Rafal's group, I was worried about her. No matter how sly Rafal is, I do not think he will start to harass her immediately. However, of that fearless smile of his that he showed when he left, I cannot get it out of my mind.

Even if something happens, I may not be able to become her power, but at least I should be able to become a meat wall for her.

With the moonlight outside, I could see the location of where the castle gate was. She was doing her guard work properly.

I was relieved, with this I can have peace of mind, it seemed that my worries were unfounded. To the girl who did her work properly, [Roxy-sama, please do your best], I will be rooting for her in my heart.

And then, when I was about to take my leave back home, I noticed that there was a shadow that climbed the wall on the east side.

It was a blind spot from Roxy and the other guards, but I could see it clearly from the place I was standing.

I'm sure that's a thief. That thief seems to be climbing up the wall and wanting to sneak into the castle in the middle of the night. In a hurry, I run to Roxy who is standing by as a guard.

[Roxy-sama, it's urgent!]

[What's happened? You have not returned back home yet...?]

[While I was strolling to get some fresh air, I saw a suspicious person sneaking into the castle. That person climbed over from the east wall on the other side.]

[Is that true!?]

[There is no mistake. I saw it with my own eyes]

I feel uneasy because I'm suddenly asking for her to believe me. However, after Roxy looked into my eyes,

[I believe you. I'll go toward that place, can you stay guard here in the meanwhile?]

[Yes, I will]

I received the spear with the crest of Kingdom from Roxy.

[May the fortune of war be with you, Roxy-sama]

[Please leave it to me. I have my weapon with me]

She pulled out a silver-white sword and ran toward the direction that had pointed to. So fast... As expected from a Holy Knight.

Her figure disappeared into the dark with surprising swiftness.

Soon, I heard the scream of a man. I can easily imagine Roxy defeating the thieves one after another.

From the number of the men's screams, there are a considerable number of thieves. Two, no, I am certain there are three people.

But, Roxy is a Holy Knight. She won't lose against thieves. Sure enough, the clamor turns quiet.

While I was relieved thinking it was already over, there is an adult man runs-up to my direction from the darkness.

I'm sure he is a thief that Roxy missed killing. As he approaches, his appearance gradually comes into view clearly because of the moon's shine.

This is... I hold my breath.

His right arm is chopped off and he is desperately trying to stop the bleeding with his left hand, he runs to the exit where I am standing at right now.

His complexion is pale, it's surely caused by extreme anemia due to the huge amount of lost blood.

I readied my spear. I cannot let him go. Frankly speaking, even if that man will die soon, he is still a thief that needs to be defeated.

I replaced Roxy as the gatekeeper, if I let this man go, I'll cause trouble for her. I definitely need to kill him.

My opponent is wounded. I should be able to knock him down even if I have no power. I focus myself, and thrust the spear with all of my might toward the thief.

Fortunately, the spear stabbs through the thief's heart.

The thief grabbed my spear while furiously staring at me; a large amount of blood spouts from his chest and then he falls on his back.

For awhile, his hands and feet convulse, and then stop moving. The thief surely has died.

[I did it, I knocked him down... Eh!?]

Suddenly, I feel something flowing into my body. After that, I hear a voice in my head.

<Appraisal, Mind Reading, Concealment, One-handed sword mastery has been added to skills>

Added to status? Added to skills? What is this voice? What is happening? And then there is a sense of fullness for the first time. Even satiating the hunger that could not be satisfied even if I ate a lot. Right now, I have the best, most satisfied feeling.

While I was still soaked in the mysterious euphoria, Roxy ran to me in a panic.

[Are you alright? Are you not injured?]

While she asked so, she took my hand and then checked me for injuries.

(I am worried... Somehow I went pale... Aaa, I was worried)

What? I can heard Roxy's voice directly in my head. She is not talking, but why I can heard her voice?.

[What is it?]

[...No, it's nothing. I didn't receive any injuries at all]

(It's true! I'm glad... I'm really glad)

I heard the voice again saying that she was very relieved for my safety. Is this, the voice of Roxy's mind? And then, when she takes back her hand, I don't hear it anymore.

This is strange indeed. Perhaps it was because of tension from battle; I heard one could be affected by auditory hallucinations. Since the other person is a Holy Knight, I can't touch her again to confirm it.

There were 10 thieves in total trying to sneak into the castle. Even if Roxy guards by herself, she is strong enough to handle them. I killed one person that escaped from her. That was possible because she wounded him to a dying state.

Therefore, all of the credit should belong to Roxy.

[Roxy-sama, please take all of the credit for yourself]

[That won't do. Didn't you defeat one of them?]

I have a certain circumstance. It's my employer Rafal.

If they heard about this, they will be enraged because I received a help from one of the other Holy Knights, I don't know what would they do to me later. In addition, Rafal does not think of Roxy well, so he will reprimand me even more.

[If Rafal-sama heard about this, my situation would be bad...]

[Ah... Indeed. I understand. We will handle this case as you say.]

[Thank you very much]

[The one who should say thank you is me. If you hadn't told me, it would've became my blunder]

Even though she is a Holy Knight who has the best of lives, the competition among them seems to be severe. I do not know the hardship because I am at the bottom.

[Therefore, please let me give you a reward]

[No it's alright, for a Holy Knight to tell me like this...]

Since it didn't seem like I, who was always submitting to others, was pleased by her gesture, she puffed up her cheeks and pouted. I was surprised since she would never normally make that kind of face. I felt that she was acting a bit more familiar with me.

[Let's see... Oh yeah]

Somehow, Roxy struck both of her hands together and made a specific gesture. Although I'll receive a reward, I wonder what would I get? I'm waiting in expectation. And then, an outrageous comment came out from her mouth.

[Do you want to work for Heart Family? I'll ask this matter to my father, I'm sure he will agree with it]

[Eh!? But, I don't have any skill at all... It's beyond my ability]

[There is no such thing as that! Just now, didn't you defeat one thief?]

I was just lucky earlier, even if I were told to do the same thing again, I think it would be impossible.

[After all... for me...]

Frustrated with my half-vague response, she lost her temper and gave me a bold statement.

[About the Burix Family, you don't need to worry about them. Or, would you rather work under the Burix Family for the rest of your life?]

[Uuh]

It seems she has seen through my anxiety because of the harassment from the Burix Family. She went this far to say she wants to hire me. I feel like shedding tears.

That Rafal and his group are the worst, they will overwork me in the future until I die. On the other hand, my life will be rose-colored working under Roxy who is gentle and

elegant.

To be honest, from the start, I was a Roxy fan.
Isn't my wish basically being fulfilled?

[By all means, thank you very much. Roxy-sama!]

[It's all good. Since it's already too late today, please come to Heart Family residence at noon tomorrow. I'll be waiting]

I feel delighted, like I want to jump up and down. I bow down to Roxy many times, and then I leave the place.

After the gate of the castle is out of sight, I jumped up and made the guts pose. Finally, luck is rolling my way. Somehow, my body feels lighter than ever, it's good thing I guess?

Let's hurry and return to my run-down home in preparation for tomorrow.

Chapter 3

Skill Investigation

I returned home, where I wet the rags with the water that I drew from well and then wiped my body down.

I will go to the residence where Roxy lives tomorrow. I wonder if my appearance is a little better with this? I light the candle and look into the broken mirror.

It didn't change much? Worn-out clothes with several patches, there is no use to worrying about my appearance now.

I gave up and then lie down on the bed made from straw. I look up at the ceiling which has been stained with the traces of the rain leaks, and recall what happened today... I received cruel violence from Rafal's group in the morning. However, after knocking down the thieves with Roxy at midnight, I'm invited to work for the Heart Family. It's a dream-like story.

Suddenly, I remembered about the inorganic voice that I heard after I killed the thief. If I'm not mistaken, it said that my status had been added to.

Skill Appraisal and Mind Reading were added... and what else was there? I forgot. Even so, Appraisal is an unusual skill, I can look up any information on things that exist in this world.

With this skill, my life might have turned for the better.

I pray silently in my mind. And then,

• Fate Graphite • Level 1

Endurance: 121

Strength: 151

Magic: 101

Spirit: 101

Agility: 131

Skills: **Gluttony, Appraisal, Mind Reading, Concealment, One-handed sword mastery**

My status and skills appeared in my head.

[Eee! What is this about!]

Calm down, me.

First of all, I just saw my status. Originally, my statuses should be very close to 1. There are three digits now. With this strength, I should be able to fight against low-class monsters.

Next are the skills. I should only have Gluttony. But, right now there are Appraisal, Mind Reading, Concealment, and One-handed sword mastery. I can't believe this... However, since I can see my status and skills, it's proof that I have the Appraisal skill. Oi oi, if I have this skill, I can switch jobs from gatekeeper to appraiser. Not just anyone can become an appraiser so the pay is good. Oh, what the hell is going on?

Calm down, me.

I used Appraisal and checked the other skills.

Mind Reading: Reveal and read the mind of the subject that comes in contact with you.

Concealment: Conceal possessed skills from the Appraisal skill...

One-handed Sword mastery: The offensive power of the one-handed sword is increased. arts can be used.

I was aware of my Mind Reading skill. When Roxy grabbed my hand, her voice could be heard because this skill was activated.

From considering various things, I have reached a conclusion at last. Or rather, when I killed the thief, the inorganic voice gave me the answer. The answer to when the Gluttony skill is activated.

The cause of this phenomenon, Gluttony was a skill that I had thought I would not be able to use at all.

I used Appraisal and examined the Gluttony skill again.

Gluttony: Become hungry.

Yeah, I get it now. This is the same description that the Appraiser who visited in my hometown village saw. In other words, this skill has a hidden power that cannot be seen by Appraisal.

The power to devour the souls of those the user has killed, and take the victim's skills as the user's own. As a side-effect, it fills the user's stomach...

This is a skill that can strengthen me quickly depending on how much I use it. However, I cannot become a murderer. Then, what should I do?

The answer is easy. There are many monsters in the outskirts of the Royal Capital Seyfar. I just need to defeat them and then absorb their powers.

Someday, after I get even stronger than the Holy Knight, I'll take my revenge at Rafal's group and Burix Family.

While I was thinking about it, I was driven with feelings of wanting to go to hunt monsters now.

However, it's still dark. Went hunting right now is dangerous. I need to sleep properly and go to hunting tomorrow morning.

Actually, I need to work as gatekeeper as substitutes for Rafal group, but let's ignore it. I don't need to obey their instruction anymore.

I have Roxy-sama as my new employer. Since I have an interview with her father at tomorrow noon, I need to return to the Royal Capital at that time.

Then, good night! When I close my eyes, my consciousness fades away in a blink of an eye.



I woke up from the birds' chirping and singing, mended my bed hair looking at broken mirror, brushed my teeth with the branches of a tree, and then dressed up.

I took out a small leather bag hidden in the gap of the cracked wall. These two silver coins are all of my wealth that I saved the last five years. 100 coppers are worth the same as one silver coin. By the way, one gold coin, which I have never gotten before, can be exchanged with 100 silver coins.

The others would be laughing if they knew about my two silver coins, however I have been struggling and bleeding my blood to save this much. This money was originally saved as a escape fund for the time when I am about to be killed by Rafal's group.

For the time being, let's not worry about it anymore. With this, I can buy equipment to fight monsters.

Now then, I grasp the two silver coins and the dash out from my run-down home. The Royal Capital Seyfar consists of four divisions. Each district is divided into the east, west, north and south, with the castle at the center.

Holy Knight district (East): This is where the upper-class people and Holy Knights of this country live.

House district (West): Where the commoners such as I live.

Commercial district (South): Many shops such as armories, general stores, restaurants, etc, open their business here.

Military district (North): The Holy Knights' training area and also where their special armor is developed.

From this kind of division, we can see how much preferential treatment is being given to the Holy Knights.

The place that I will go to right now is the most crowded place in the Royal Capital, the commercial district.

After passing through the residential district and wading through the crowds, I entered the commercial district, lined with buildings made of red brick.

Now, to the alley. Over here, the stalls are lined up all the way down the street, with vigorous voices hailing to the passerby...

This is normal in the commercial district.

Why did I come to this place? My war funds are just two silver coins. With this, I can only buy a worn-out weapon.

And, with my current appearance, I won't be able to enter the high-class armor stores. Thus, I came to the flea market which gathered various items that others did not need anymore.

I searched for a second-hand weapon in this open air market. Then, a middle-aged man gently called me. He showed an amiable smiling face.

[Dear customer, are you looking for weapon?]

[You seem to understand me well]

[That's because I have done this business for years, you came from the other side looking only at weapons and didn't look at anything else.]

This man is sharp. So this is a merchant?
I am a little surprised.

[How is it? Do you want to check them out?]

There are many armors being displayed. It's my first time looking at so many of them arranged like this.

There might be a weapon that is suitable for me. I nod silently to the storekeeper words.

[Then, may I know how much is your budget?]

And then, after the storekeeper heard the amount of money I had on hand, his attitude changed immediately.

There is no gentle look from the storekeeper's face anymore. It's like Rafal's, the eyes that looked down on the people.

[Tsk, as I expected, a poor person. My hospitality was wasted. Hora, since you only have two silver coins, you can only get a garbage weapon from the corner over there. It might suit you well]

It was obvious that I didn't have enough money to buy a decent weapon. Even if I were to get irritated at dealing with this stall and head off to another, the same thing would just occur again. In that case, since there are still a variety of rubbish weapons here, it would be more beneficial to buy a weapon from this stall where I have more to choose from

By using skill, I checked the old weapons with my hand. Most of them have reached the limit of endurance, it seems they will break after I use them several times.
And then, when I pick up an old black sword, a voice flows into my head.

(Buy me. I'll never let you lose.)

What I have heard with is the faint voice of a man.

Chapter 4

Greedy Black Sword

[Uwaa, the sword is talking!]

The black sword suddenly talked to me, I was surprised and dropped it on the ground. The storekeeper who was negotiating with the other customers narrowed his eyes and stared at me.

It's like he saying, what have you done, if you aren't interested in buying anything, you should get out quickly.

I might not be mistaken.

What is this... The sword is talking- I never heard of a sword that can talk inside of your mind...

Although it talked, it probably used my [Mind Reading] skill as a mediatory; this black sword surely has its own intentions like a person.

For the time being, I examined it with my [Appraisal] skill.

- **Greed Form : One-handed sword.**

Huh? Is this all?

Usually with the other weapons, I can get information about its endurance and its offensive power; however on this black sword I can only see its name and its shape. I looked at the mysterious black sword. It is covered with dust and oil, it's very dirty. Just like me.

It was also being treated as garbage scraps too.

When I was thinking about it, I felt something like sense of affinity from it somehow. I'm certain, the voice that I had heard a little while ago was [Please buy me...], I think?

Its way of talking is full of pride, however I didn't feel any malicious intent. If it had planned to do something when I touched it, it should have done it earlier.

Then, even if I touch it again, there shouldn't be any problem. I prepare myself and

then grip the black sword.

And, the voice could be heard more clearly than a little while ago.

[I thought you were gonna run away, you're interesting fellow I see. Then, what will you do? Will you buy me?] (*TL Note: He has a manly way of speaking. Using 'ore-sama' to address himself*)



I have looked the other weapons. The only one that I'm able to use right away is only this Greed Black Sword. If you consider the chat function from this sword, I think I can somehow manage it.

[I'll buy you. I think, we are similar]

[I see... Then, please pay the money to the fat person over there. I feel nauseated whenever I see that bastard's face]

I hold Greed and went to the counter where the shopkeeper is standing and put down two silver coins.

The storekeeper only takes a side glance to confirm the payment, since he is still talking with the other customer. He urged me to go out of the store by waving his hand like you would to drive away wild dogs.

This storekeeper is really annoying to the last minute. Even if you didn't said it, I'll leave the store right away. I will never coming to here again!

I took out the rag cloth from my pocket and wiped the sword to make the Greed that I just bought look clean. However, it seems that I cannot remove the stubborn grease and grime. Although I could clean it with soap... But, I don't have any money left to buy soap.

[I'll be in your care, Greed]

[Understood, maybe this is a good chance. Moreover, maybe it's destiny... I'll stay with you till the end. What is your name?]

Now that I think about it, I haven't introduced myself yet.

[I'm Fate Graphite]

[Fumu, I'll remember it. What will we do now, Fate?]

I have been decided what to do since last night.

[I have obtained a weapon. You should know, don't you?]

[Hunting, eh?]

[Yes, monster hunting!]

Without any delay, I went from the commercial district to the southern gate of the kingdom with my new inorganic buddy called Greed.

The south gate was made to allow a large amount of cargo entering into the commercial district, so they made it one size larger than the other three gates. It is an area where the wagons can line up and have 10 carts pass at the same time.

If we went out from there, we just need to advance a little to enter a place called Goblin Prairie. It is a location where goblins live, they often attack the carriages that pass there to get their food.

The strength of this monster is on the lowest level, so it's perfect for beginner soldiers and warriors.

I need to be cautious since they usually hide in the grass and ambush people. I've heard of people that saw a lone goblin and approached it to try to defeat it, only to be surrounded and killed by the goblins hiding in the grass. That's why there's even a local saying about them; *If you see a single goblin then assume there are a hundred.* I know this kind of story after forcibly hearing it from a drunken old warrior at the bar. I thought it certainly would be useful at this time.

Since I have joined as a frontliner fighter, this goblin hunting is my first step to the gateway of success.

My one-handed sword skill mastery! With this, I should be able to defeat the goblins.

And then, after I defeat the goblin, I'll absorb its power for my own.

While I was avoiding the wagons, I saw a lot of men and women who were fully equipped gathered in front of the south gate.

Apparently, this place is the location to search for a party with each others, before heading to go monster hunting.

Party, huh?... I'm jealous. I had been bullied in my hometown village, so I'm lonely. Here, I was being overworked by Rafal and his group, I didn't have any chances to make a close friend with someone.

Fighting together, encouraging each other when one of us is in pain, and crying together when one of us is sad. A party of heroes was born in the legend that my dead father had told me. My younger self had listened to those tales, eyes shining.

[I'm jealous... A comrade]

I muttered it without thinking. And then Greed said,

[You have me, don't you?]

[Y, yeah I guess...]

But, you are an inorganic item. What I want is living being. There is a huge difference between them.

Alright, I need to pull myself together and enter the world where warriors live. It's alright, I am not the same person who used to be. I have the power to fight the monsters.

Surely, if I enter among them, I will be accepted by someone.

While I was thinking so, I was being called by an armored man whose age was not far from mine.

[It seems you have a sword and you look like a warrior too. How about it, wanna pair up with me?]

[Is it okay?!]

I am pleased and my tension goes up. Since I have little experience being needed by people. It almost makes me cry when someone tells me that my power is needed.

[Sure, I was embarrassed because my partner who always hunted together with me isn't here today. By the way, what is your level?]

[Hai, my level is 1!]

After he heard my level, his face cramped. After that, he told me that he has remembered that he has some business to do while scratching his head and walked away from me.

Eh... Somehow, only a strange emptiness remained.

While I was down, Greed said.

[Fate, give it up. Even if you have the skill, there is no one willing to make a party with a level 1. You might possibly die in the battle. You also wouldn't want to pair-up with a weak guy, would you?]

When I heard that I was taken aback. I realised that although I had obtained a greater

status and more skills and felt like I had become really strong, I had actually only reached the starting line. Since until now I had only seen trash, I had lost my perspective as to what was actually normal.

[I was overconfident.]

[Yes. Beside, your skill is not good to be revealed to the other people so you should give up on joining a party. Also, you better conceal it by using the Concealment skill, excluding your one-handed sword mastery skill. That's all what I want to say]

[...Why is that?]

I never spoke about the Glutton skill to anyone. Nevertheless, I know why.
Then, Greed laughs fearlessly.

[It's because you and I are of the same kind. Well, you will likely understand it sooner or later]

After Greed's pompous words, he went silent.

Although I felt bothered, what he said was not wrong. The skill is too overpowered for a unique skill, so if the other warriors learned about it, the result wouldn't be good for me.

For instance, if there was someone who was able to steal the powers of those they had killed, that person might try to steal my abilities. And if so then they'll probably aim to kill me while I'm still weak. At least, that's my hypothesis based on how Rafal would think in that position. Well, there could actually be someone who thought of something like that about me.

For my own safety, it seems I can do nothing except hunt monsters alone with Greed, at least until I gain enough power so that no one can interfere with me.

First of all, let's go goblin hunting.

Chapter 5

Eating

I am currently hiding in the grass. This place is near the goblin prairie entrance. A little way ahead of me, I saw a goblin sitting cross-legged and yawning. The height of this small monster is around my waistline. Its skin is green and it's wearing tattered clothes which seem to be stolen from humans.

The enemy relaxes its guard, not noticing me. Although I am watching the surrounding area, there are no signs of its brethren.

I hold my breath and sneak behind the goblin.

And then I used **[Appraisal]** skill.

• **Goblin Fighter** • Level 3

Endurance: 30

Physical Strength: 40

Magic: 10

Spirit: 10

Agility: 30

Skill: **Physical Strength enhancement (Small)**

Goblin Fighter, huh?... Apparently, there are several types of these guys.

Its status is lower than me.

I also checked its skills.

Physical Strength enhancement (Small) : When executing a physical attack, a small bonus will be added.

A skill for status correction? There's probably (Small), (Medium), and (Large) versions.

These kind of useful skills, I want to gain them quickly.

The goblin got drowsy and then fell asleep.

This is a heaven-sent chance!

I dash out from the grassy area, closing in on the goblin at once. It seems to have noticed my footsteps and tried to turn around, but it's already too late.

Aiming at the neck, I swing the black sword Greed, slicing off the goblin's head with a single arc of my sword.

The goblin died without being able to resist or letting out a voice.

Then I heard an inorganic voice in my head.

[Gluttony skill activated]

[Endurance +30, Physical Strength +40, Magic +10, Spirit+10, Agility +30 has been added]

[Physical Strength enhancement (Small) has been added]

Alright! To confirm it, I checked myself using.

• **Fate Graphite** • Level 1

Endurance: 151

Physical Strength: 191

Magic: 111

Spirit: 111

Agility: 161

Skill: Gluttony, Appraisal, Concealment, One-handed Sword mastery, Physical Strength enhancement (Small).

It increased, it increased! Yeah, I'm getting stronger.

While I was celebrating my status and skills joyously, Greed laughed scornfully.

[For just a goblin, you're way too happy. If you get that happy whenever you defeat one of them, we will be here until sunset.]

[Spare me, I'm just happy that I can defeat a monster for the first time]

Certainly, if I was a warrior I wouldn't be as excited. However, I'm just a normal human who has had lived being frightened of monsters until yesterday. There is a sense of freedom when our positions have reversed. (*TL Note: From the hunted to the hunter*)

As evidence that I have defeated the Goblin, I cut off both its green ears. The Kingdom gives rewards to those who have subjugated monsters, so if you bring the proof to the established facility, you can exchange it for money.

It should be 10 coppers for a goblin. It's better than the daily wages of the gatekeeper job that I was doing before. The warrior job may be dangerous, but it's better at earning money.

I throw the goblin's ears into the hemp bag that I had prepared in advance.

Well, onto the next one. While staying vigilant and advancing, I noticed two goblins were walking in an open area.

One of them is a goblin fighter holding a sword. On the other hand, the other goblin is only holding a big shield.

Rather than just being curious about it, I used right away.

• **Goblin Guard** • Level 3

Endurance: 40

Physical Strength: 20

Magic: 10

Spirit: 10

Agility: 10

Skill: Endurance enhancement (Small)

I see, its endurance is only slightly more than the goblin fighter. Moreover, as if to match its status, its also has the endurance enhancement (small) skill.

If I fight carefully to avoid my attack being guarded, I will manage somehow.

I hide myself in the shadows of the grass from the two of them. Well, which one should I defeat first?

It would be better to defeat the goblin fighter who has an offensive weapon. However, if I fail, they will notice me and it will become a battle where I'll surely be distracted by the goblin guard.

Although I gained power, I'm still not accustomed to fighting yet so I want to give it a try...

I've decided, I'll defeat the goblin guard first.

I aim at the moment when the two of them part and are some distance away from each

other.

Now! Even though I flew out when the goblin was facing towards the other side, the goblin guard noticed me with its sharp sense and quickly set up its shield. With the way things are going, my sword will be repelled... is what I thought.



The goblin guard screamed.

There was no resistance, I was able to cut through the shield. The black sword Greed seems to be sharper than it looks. If this is the case, I can attack one-sidedly.

[Gluttony skill activated]

[Endurance +40, Physical Strength +20, Magic +10, Spirit +10, Agility +10 has been added]

[Endurance enhancement (Small) has been added]

While I listened to the inorganic voice, I rushed to the other remaining goblin. Of course, the goblin fighter at the other side has already noticed me and threatens me by swinging its sword.

You can swing as much as you want. I don't care, I swung my sword at the goblin fighter's sword.

The goblin fighter fell down with his white eyes wide open.

[Gluttony skill activated]

[Endurance +30, Physical Strength +40, Magic +10, Spirit +10, Agility +30 has been added]

Nn? The skill wasn't acquired this time. Ah, I see. Is it because I already have the skill, so to avoid overlaps, the skill was not added?

If I want a new skill, I have to hunt a different monster. Just gaining the status points alone is delicious enough though.

After that, I hunted down 25 goblin fighters and 10 goblin guards.

The sack where I was keeping the goblin ears slowly became full.

I checked my current status by using.

• **Fate Graphite** • Level 1

Endurance: 1371

Physical Strength: 1451

Magic: 481

Spirit: 481

Agility: 1051

Skill: Gluttony, Appraisal, Concealment, One-handed Sword mastery, Physical Strength enhancement (Small), Endurance (Small).

Oioi, my endurance, physical strength, and agility has reached 4 digits! As for magical and spirit power, it seems they didn't increase much because my enemies' statuses were low. Fufufu, it's unbelievable when I compare my current status with the me of yesterday.

But, I'm curious about something. My own level. Even after I defeated a lot of monsters and gained a lot of experience, it wouldn't be weird if my level rose too. However, my level hasn't moved at all from level 1.

When I was racking my brain thinking about it, Greed laughed.

[It's the effect of the **Gluttony** skill. The people who have that skill are breaking the God's rules, so they won't be able to receive experience values]

[The God's rules, what do you mean...?]

[It's as you are now. The way you kill the monsters and deprive their status, is because of a skill that denies the concept of God's rules— It'll also negate the effect of the concept of leveling too. These kind of people don't receive the blessing from God. Their status will remain at level 1]

And then, after some time passes, Greed speaks up again. I wonder if he was thinking about something?

[Moreover... No, it's nothing. It's about time, shouldn't we return to the Royal Capital now?]

He stopped in the middle of his sentence, leaving me curious. But, I have to go to Roxy's residence at noon.

I finished the goblin hunting and returned to Royal Capital Seyfat. Raising my status to the fourth digit should be enough for today.

Next for monster hunting, I'll go hunt Hob Goblins in the forest which is located a bit further from here...

Since the Hob Goblin is a high-ranking goblin monster, I will be able to receive better stats and more skills.

Let's go back to the Royal Capital Seyfat.

Chapter 6

The Dark Side of the Heart Family

I returned by foot to the Royal Capital Seyfat. To exchange the monsters that I defeated for the reward, I went to visit the Exchange Facility.

It's a place crowded with a lot of unrefined warriors. Sometimes, you can also hear violent language. Also, there are often disputes in front of the reception about bargaining the reward.

It's going to be troublesome if I get involved with those guys. I shrug and line up in the rows.

A man with a good physique in front of me looked at me and turned up his nose at me. It seems like he thought that based from my appearance, I was the one who did the 'miscellaneous tasks' in my party.

That is kinda convenient for me right now.

If I were to show up with a large amount of monster parts, everyone will think [Ah, are you the underling in your party?], so I won't draw strange suspicions. This time, I brought 38 goblin ears, so it won't be so surprising.

[Next, please]

Oops, it's my turn. I put my sack on the counter. Since it's only a small bag, the goblin ears burst out from the bag.

[I'll checking it first... Oh dear, you sure hunted a lot. Did you go hunting with a big party?]

[Eeh, yeah, yes I did. We worked hard, combining our efforts. Everyone was in such high-spirits... I think]

I desperately talked about the imaginary party in my head, since the party itself didn't exist, I can only imagine an party of air. Then, Greed talks in my mind.

[I can't hold myself back from laughing]

[Shut up]

Oh crap. The reception person is unable to hear Greed's voice, so he is looking at me perplexed. It's because I was suddenly said [Shut up] during our conversation. I intended it for Greed, but the reception must be thinking it's for him.

[I'm sorry. It's nothing.]

I force a smile and laugh, somehow managing to get away from it. I think. I feel relieved when I exited from the Exchange Facility. In the conversation with the receptionist, I was told that people normally hunted the same monster to a maximum of ten per day. When I asked for the reason, he explained that if you kept hunting the same kind of monster, a grudge called Hate would make the monster aggressively target you.

Now that I think about it, when I was hunting the goblins earlier, in the latter half, I was being attacked like I was their parent's murderer... I see.

From now on, when I exchange for rewards, it would be better restrain myself to 10 monsters to exchange like the other warriors do. Let's give up on more than that. Every time, if I bring in a large amount of monster parts, everyone would think that it's strange. Although it's not a big deal, but let's slow down my pace.

I peek the inside of the bag, it contains 3 silver coins and 80 copper coins.

When I saved money for five years in hardship—I could only gain 2 silver coins.

Now, I have exceed that in just half a day.

[What I have done those five years...]

The closer I get to a decent life, the more I'm forced to realise just how much of a terrible, warped world I had lived in until now.

While I was thinking about it, my anger of Rafal's group grows stronger. They said I was trash. Therefore, I am not allowed to be angry... so they said.

Guuuu...

As the thoughts of Rafal and co. filled on my head, my stomach which should be satisfied until now by the overly-filling goblins, begins to growl. As if it's was saying "I want to eat them, I want to eat them!"

It's still too early. Moreover, there is Roxy too.
That is not my problem anymore.

Well, what should I do with this money? Oh yeah!
I see my clothes covered with patches, so I know where my money should go.



[Anyone can look good in good clothes, I see]

[Shut up]

My dirty appearance has turned clean now. I used two silver coins in the clothes shop and bought well-tailored clothes.
And also, I spent 50 copper coins to buy a sheath for the black sword Greed. Plus 10 more copper coins to wash off Greed's oil and dirt too.

With this, even if I go to the area where the Holy Knights live, I won't give off a bad impression to the guards.
If you saw me from any angle, I'm just a normal person.

I went to the entrance of Holy Knight area in high spirits.
The Holy Knight area is different from the other areas. The surrounding is bordered with high walls, kinda like it's guarding another castle inside it.

When I told the guard of my name, I passed through the inside. It seems Roxy had arranged it beforehand.
I'm not sure about it, but it seems that I need the person herself to confirm it.
Therefore, I am being flanked by two soldiers. It's kinda like I did a bad thing and am being escorted away.

I was being guided to the mansion, as expected from the one of five great noble families in this Royal Capital.
I can't believe my eyes as I approach the mansion. Even a idiot would think that it's too big.

One of the soldiers who accompanied me, enters the premises and crosses through the garden.

And then, a girl in a white dress comes out with him. She is a beautiful girl.

[Did you just arrive? I have been waiting]

That voice is Roxy's. As I have only met her as a fellow gatekeeper, I only know her appearance with white light armor. She looks like a totally different person in her dress. She really is very beautiful.

After they finished confirming it, the soldiers withdraw.

Only the two of us were left, and maybe because I was looking at her with a stupid face, she opened her mouth.

[What's wrong?]

Roxy asks me curiously.

[Roxy-sama is too beautiful, so I couldn't stop staring at you. I'm sorry]

Her cheeks redden, and then gently clears her throat.

[I, I occasionally wear my dress. You too, your appearance is different too. Saa, follow me]

In spite of the large residence, it's very quiet. I have not seen the servants' appearance, it was silent.

I walked behind Roxy while looking at the maintained lawn. It's really too quiet. I can only hear the sound of wind blowing around.

Followed by whistles of emptiness shortly after.

When we arrive at the front of the mansion, we move over to the right side. Huh? We don't enter inside?

Even if it was the kind of atmosphere that would let me ask her what was going on, I wouldn't be able to listen to her explanation. As we advance a bit further,

[This is...]

I'm unable to say any more.

Looking at me, Roxy smiles gently. And then, she bends down and puts her hand on a

tombstone.

[Father, I've decided to employ him today. I hope my heart can be revived with this]

I cannot process the words that Roxy said just now.

[My father, he died three days ago in Gallia to the south]

[Gallia, huh?]

If I'm not mistaken, it's the continent occupied by monsters. Moreover, it is said the monsters in the surroundings of the Royal Capital are not strong enough to compare with them.

The Holy Knights' most important task is to hold down the monsters that progress from that place to the kingdom. For that reason, they have been awarded with high ranks and excessive pay from the kingdom.

However, I honestly didn't expect that a current family head from one of the five great noble families in the kingdom has passed away.

Roxy says, as if reading my anxiety.

[The cause of death is not because of monsters. In the Gallia, there are other causes too]

After she says so, I can only think of that one. Flood, earthquake, tsunami, natural disasters that are caused by it.

A living natural disaster—. No matter what power you have, there is no way to stop it. With so much strength, it has been the subject of faith and some people say that it's an envoy of God.

If you are targeted by it, you must prepare for your death.

[I heard that the troops my father led were all annihilated. It's unthinkable, a Heavenly Dragon flying that far away from its nest... After all, such a case has never been heard of in the last few millennia.]

The nest of Heavenly Dragon is located in the center of Gallia. Also, it's said to never approach near the border of Gallia. Yet, it suddenly happened. It's lucky that that was the end of it.

However, the story didn't end for the people who got left behind.

[I'm finally done with the work for this morning. With Father's funeral and a bunch of other things, it was hectic. Since I succeeded Father's position, I am now officially the Heart Family head.]

When this girl shows so much confidence at such a hard time like now, I can only bow my head to her.

I did not notice at all. I saw that her face looked as usual when we changed positions, and I did not know about this happening behind the scenes.

Even in such a situation, Roxy was thinking about me and invited me here.

And here I was thinking of how should I deceive Roxy's father who would interview me about my power...

Roxy-sama, I'm sorry, I am...

[Don't make such a face, let the both of us grow the Heart Family together. Could you do that?]

[Yes, gladly]

That day, I became an employee of the Heart family.

Chapter 7

Drowning in Hunger

I have since lived in the Heart mansion as a servant; one week will pass soon. When I came to the mansion, I was talking to the black sword Greed, so the surrounding people saw me as a dangerous person. I'll admit that was a blunder. However, the servants of the Heart family are all good people, they accepted me for who I am. Even though the days pass by peacefully, I have a lot of things to learn and memorize, so I am very busy and don't have time to leave the mansion.

Cooking, Washing, Cleaning... I tried various jobs, and the one most suitable for me is Gardener.

To maintain such a sprawling garden really needs considerable perseverance. Pulling out constantly growing weeds, occasionally arranging the grass height.

With three master gardeners teaching me, I somewhat managed to do it well enough. And, if my skill improved, they said that they would let me maintain some garden trees by myself. Someday I would like to prune the very thick tree at the front gate.

Being needed as a person, I feel rewarded for my work.

I gave up my vacation time, completely devoted in my new job.

Moreover, when the dishes for the servants were lined up on the table after working, there was meat there.

When I saw it, my hands were trembling. After five years, there was meat. It was natural that I was tensed up.

With an improvement in nutrients, I think I have gained a little bit weight from my previous skinny body.

Oh, after Roxy got back from her duties in the castle, she invited me to drink tea with her in my free time. Honestly, the conversation with Holy Knight-sama is... I have no idea what to say at all. Thus, Roxy has talked one-sidedly.

But, she seems to have fun when she does, so it's all good for me.

When I compare the time I was being a daily gatekeeper under Rafal, there is a great difference like between heaven and earth.

Of course, Roxy-sama is heaven. The other side is the hell.

Even if I should be happy with it, I don't know why... Recently, my body's condition is very bad. The feeling of hunger doesn't stop, it keeps growing and I can't suppress it. This is definitely because I am starving.

Like now, I still feel it throbbing with pain.

[Fay, how have you been?]

While she puts the tea cup on its plate, Roxy looks at me anxiously.

It is only at this time, when we have our two-person tea party, which has become a daily occurrence, does she call me Fay.

I was called by that nickname when my father was still alive and it was quite embarrassing. However, since my master-sama wanted to call me Fay, I forced myself to accept it.

When I consulted about it with the Black Sword Greed, he just said [How should I know? Think for yourself] while mocking me. So, whenever Roxy calls me Fay, I had a feeling of discontent.

[It's nothing, Roxy-sama]

I suppress the pain of hunger down so as to not worry Roxy during this tea time.

[Is that so...? But, you have a bad complexion]

Does she think my abnormal hunger is a cold? She tries to touch my forehead with her hand.

However, if she touches me with her hand, my Mind Reading skill will be activated. I don't want to intrude inside Roxy's mind.

[No, I'm really alright!]

When I try to get up from the seat to escape, I feel dizzy and my consciousness flies away because of the hunger, and I fall down on the floor.

Today, I was attacked by a fiercer hunger than usual. I feel my Glutton skill struggle around in my whole body. My consciousness slowly, gradually gets swallowed up by

the darkness.

I hear Roxy's voice calling my name faintly. But in the end, I cannot hear anything at all.



When I wake up, I am in my own room in the mansion that was provided to me. It's different from the makeshift bed built from the straw; it is a soft bed filled with cotton packed firmly. I was able to sleep on such a luxury.

Apparently, during the tea time with Roxy, I had fainted being able to endure the hunger from my Glutton skill. Now I feel comfortable because that unbearable pain is suppressed.

It's already night time. Specifically midnight, based from the position of the moon when I saw it through the window.

I notice a note on the shelf illuminated by the moonlight.

[Take a good rest from work tomorrow morning. From Roxy]

It seems I have made her worried. Well, that's natural because I fainted in front of her. The next time we meet, I will apologize for this incident during tea time.

While I sat down, sighing, on the bed, I took out the black sword Greed which was leaning sideways.

[Hey, Greed. My hunger increases with every passing day. In the past, I had been able to endure and there was no issue like this. What do you think?]

Greed answered while laughing hard.

[It's natural. You, have thrown the dice]

[What do you mean?]

[After the Glutton skill experiences consuming a soul once, it cannot be stopped. You will be urged to eat more]

That is the reason of my abnormal hunger... I was in a state of starvation.

While I thought it was just a powerful ability, it seems there is a price that must be paid.

While I was shaken, Greed continued.

[As you eat souls, you will become stronger. And after you eat the soul, you will get an urge to want more souls to eat. That's the characteristic of this skill. Until you die, you need to keep getting stronger. The skill won't let you off. If you are unable to continue, you will simply starve to death. You might also lose your will and ego, and start to attack anything]

[No way... It can't be]

Extreme hunger. When I cannot endure it anymore, I'll starve to death, or... Uhh, the latter seems frightening. It's possible that I'll turn into a monster.

What if, it was impossible to control myself when I was having tea time during the day, and ended-up attacking Roxy... When I thought about it, I shuddered.

[I will also tell you something good. When you are reaching the critical limit, something will happen to your eyes. Take a look in the mirror]

I did what Greed said. There is a large mirror attached inside the room. What being projected there, were bright red eyes.

My pupils' original color is black. They are dyed blood red now.



[It seems you have reached the limit. You can enjoy a peaceful employee life here. But do not forget what you should do. I'll say it once more, the dice have been thrown]

The Glutton skill, it will ask for souls whenever disregarding my intention. Even if I drink water or eat the food, I won't be able to satisfy my hunger.

There was only one way to satisfy it. And then, it would ask for more, I have no other choice besides sinking deeper into the quagmire.

Now, my hunger is at the limit, so I have no choice but to go. I finally obtained my peaceful life everyday, I don't want to let it go.

I change my clothes in the room, sling on my black sword Greed. And then, under everyone's eyes, I went out stealthily from Heart Family's Mansion. To satisfy my hunger...

Chapter 8

Starvation Boost

I run through the main street of the Holy Knight district, stopping in front of the large gate at the district entrance.

When I am in the state of starvation, it seems my five senses become tremendously sharpened. For example, my eyes are capable of seeing in the night, which looks like daytime to me.

My sense of smell too... How do I put it, I can smell the scent of delicious humans? A little way away are two guards standing in position.

From the two of them, the man on the right smells more delicious. Then, I compare their status skills by using the [Appraisal] skill, which reveals that the man on the right side is the winner.

In other words, my sense of smell is capable of smelling delicious prey and identifying the power of my target.

Perhaps, this is the effect of Glutton skill that wants to consume a soul which gives a boost effect to my body.

But... It's painful. Maybe it's because I'm starving that my eyes feel dizzy from the periodical pain in my body.

I need to leave quickly, it won't be funny if I lose myself and end up consuming the guards.

Since I am a Heart Family servant, I have proof of permission to pass through the gate. I just need to show it to the guards when I am about to enter or leave the district. If I were to lose it, I won't be able to enter the district so I must be careful with it.

[Hello, thank you for all of your hard work]

I approach the guards while smiling. I want to leave the Holy Knight district at midnight, so even for a little, I want to avoid making a big disturbance. However, the moment I approached them while showing my proof that I put out from my pocket.

[Hii]

The guard flinches, taking one step away from me. As he looks at me, his face becomes very stiff.

I turn to the other guard feeling that something is wrong, but his reaction was also same.

And then, those two guards stiffen up and stop moving.

Something is not right.

I show my proof one-sidedly to the guard quickly, then I hurry to the commercial district.

Why did the two of them become like that? Greed answers my anxiousness with a matter-of-fact tone.

[The moment they see your eyes, they become like frogs being stared down by a snake. It's that kind of power from your eyes. If your opponent's status is lower than you, they will be frightened and won't be able to move. It's one of the Glutton skill's temporary ability to easily consume a soul]

[The guards earlier, am I gonna get into trouble?]

[They just got this kind of experience for the first time. They probably won't know what just happened, so they will let it go. After this, don't show them your red eyes, so they can think that they are tired because of the midnight guard work and they were hallucinating. They will definitely think along those lines. However, if you put on an anxious attitude like you are now, they will surely begin to suspect you]

Certainly, there is some truth in that. While I advanced through the commercial district in a dignified manner thinking that, I smelled something sweet. It's a really delicious smell.

I yield to the temptation and went to the alley where only a few people come by from the main street. And then, I quietly look for the main source of the smell.

Up ahead are three people concealing their appearance with black coats, walking.

I tried to appraise them using the Appraisal skill, but the distance was too far to activate it.

In the next moment, the moonlight lit the area, and I saw the face of one of the three black-coated people.

[!?]

I hold my breath. Why is that guy out here at such a time? That hateful face is Rafal's. Then, the tallest person who walks next to him is Hado, the second son. The short person would be Mimir, who is the youngest sister.

Without noticing that I followed after them, they entered the luxury store which is only available for VIPs in the commercial district.

You cannot enter this place unless you are high ranked like a Holy Knight. While feeling an unpleasant uneasiness, as I watched over the situation from the shadow, more and more people who wore black overcoats entered the store.

I understand from the smell. They are all the members of the Holy Knights. It's not a mistake.

At such a time in the middle of the night, what kind of meeting are they doing? This is a situation where they are probably avoiding the public's sight.

I was watching the situation of the store for a while, but since the window curtains were all closed, I don't know what's going on inside. And then, a huge stomach rumble growls loudly...

Guuuu...

I cannot help being worried. But, right now I have an urgent goal. Slowly, my starvation has almost become dangerous. With painful reluctance, I leave the place.

I walk forward to leave via the west gate in the commercial district. The atmosphere is completely different and it's very quiet compared to in the daytime.

To the extent where there is no wagon traffic at all. But in exchange, there are a lot of warriors hanging around the front of the gate.

As I look at all of them, they wear equipment that makes me think that they are seasoned warriors.

From the time I went goblin hunting in the early morning, I understand they are a rank above than the warriors in the morning.

I feel greatly intimidated by them. On the other hand, Greed says.

[Those guys' purpose is night hunting. Today, the moonlight is strong and you can get more vision than usual. Moreover, when the monsters are sleeping now, the occurrence of hate hardly happens, even if you keep killing the monsters of the same types. They will attack the sleeping monsters and it's possible to destroy the monsters

in large quantities.]

[I see]

If you are a normal warrior, hunting at night is the thing that you must never do. However, if you are an expert who has experience with your equipment, it is a useful hunting strategy that can earn you a lot of money.

While satisfied with Greed's explanation, I cross paths with a group. Then, I get called by a man with an unshaven beard.

[Oi, you. You seem like a face that I rarely see around. Are you planning to go hunting with such shabby equipment?]

[Yeah I am]

When I answered him, the guy begins to laugh and shouted loudly.

[Oi, everyone listen up! There is a foolish person beyond saving right here!]

Even though I tried to not stand out, the warriors' eyes have gathered to look at me sternly.

They see my face and grin broadly.

[You, to come to this place with that kind of clothes, you must be a strong guy]

Since he said it while laughing, even though it's true, the meaning might be different. Just by watching you I know you are trash, why are you coming here?

[What level are you? Let me tell you, I will not laugh.]

[I don't want to say it. Hurry up and leave.]

My starvation is at the limit. I went on ahead and ignored them. This fellow didn't flinch at all when he saw my red eyes.

Then it means his status is above mine. So I don't plan to check their status by using the Appraisal skill.

When I go outside through the gate, I hear the warriors' voices stabbing my back.

[Did you hear that? That little guy, he most likely can't say it because he is still low-leveled. Seriously. This is why a beginner should know their place]

[Perhaps, we could invite him to our party?]

[Yeah, but I'd rather not]

[Oi, trash level-chan, you can come back here. If you're lucky, someone might invite you to their party]

[It's impossible for me]

[Yeah, same here]

[Just said so! Gahaha!]

Just say as much as you want, I don't care. I can't join any party because of my Glutton skill anyway.

I'll get way more stronger than you all my way.

Chapter 9

Devouring greedily

I was single-mindedly running through the goblin prairie in the night.
And then, whenever I passed by bushes and found sleeping goblins, I swung my black sword Greed to behead their necks.

[Glutton Skill Activated]

[Endurance +30, physical strength +40, magical power +10, spirit +10, agility +30 have been added to status]

I have heard the inorganic voice several times.
It's still not enough. More. My starvation won't be satisfied from such things like this.

However, I have been running constantly from the Royal Capital to here. I halted my movement and took some time to breathe.

The full moon rose high in the sky without clouds, and illuminated the body of the goblin that I knocked down a while ago.

In normal hunting, to get the subjugation reward, we needed to chop off both ears of the monsters as evidence. However, I don't have much leisure time to do it, so once my breathing settled down, I stepped over the corpse and began running again towards the next target.

Nn? I heard footsteps running at me from the prairie.
The footsteps on the grass, not only from my back, but also my front, and my sides.
There's a considerable number.

Apparently, while I'm being too focused running around the area, the goblins acknowledged me as a dangerous entity. So they woke-up the other goblins and gathered to crush me who was harming their kind?

While I checked those fellows signs, I moved lower than the bushes.
After that, the footsteps that were running behind me, could be heard one after another.
When I looked around, the goblins have surrounded me.

It seems that there are around 50 of them, it's quite a lot. Maybe because my eyes have accustomed to the night, I can see the goblins appearances.

The enemies are familiar ones, Goblin Fighter and Goblin Guards.

If I use black sword Greed, I can cut their swords and shields into two pieces.

And also, even if they increased their numbers, I don't need to prepare a specific strategy against the goblins, especially since I was in a starvation state now.

When I stared at them with my red eyes, the goblins who had lower-ranked status were unable to move at all. I took glances to the surrounding goblins, and when they stopped moving, I hunted them one by one.

The goblins who realized the abnormality tried to escape, but it was too late.

Anyone who saw it might be thinking that killing them are an easy task, but it's easy because it was me who did it.

And then I cut down the last goblin. The goblins fell down, their corpses laid by one another.

[Glutton Skill Activated]

[Endurance +40, physical strength +20, magical power +10, spirit +10, agility +10 have been added to status]

Fuu, I have satisfied it just a little.

I used the black sword Greed that I have polished like a mirror and checked my face. There are still red eyes.

[I have defeated a lot, but my hunger seems to be unsatisfied...]

I have defeated more than 150 goblins. And yet my starvation state has still not subsided yet.

Greed answered my question, who slowly became impatient.

[How much longer until I became satisfied?]

[Umu. With your current condition, it seems you won't be able to be satisfied at the goblin level. You should go hunt the high-ranked Hobgoblin]

I accepted Greed's suggestion, so I went from Goblin prairie and entered the forest in the west.

This place is called Hobgoblin forest. It is said that the goblins who lived in the prairie,

after they evolved into hobgoblin, would migrate and live in this forest.

There are three kinds of hobgoblins. Hobgoblin Fighter, Hobgoblin Guard, and Hobgoblin Archer.

About the Hobgoblin Fighter and Hobgoblin Guard, both of them are similar to their Goblin versions.

The problem is the Hobgoblin Archer. Even though their numbers are few, they lurked in the bushes. They shoot arrows from long distances. It's really troublesome and dangerous because they smeared the arrowheads with their feces, which could cause an infectious disease if it hit.

The warriors in the Royal Capital, even they are fearful when fighting against these Hobgoblin Archers.

I got these pieces of information from the fellow servants of the Heart family, since there was a person who used to be a warrior when he was young and I was taught various things by him during our meals. Most of the information were about his battle experiences – and his bragging, but I listened attentively because it was interesting.

I express my deep gratitude for him, because it made me cautious when advance in this forest.

Since the Hobgoblin are not nocturnal monsters, they must be sleeping soundly right now.

So I just need to kill them while they sleep like I did to the goblins.

Oh, I saw one. There was a Hobgoblin leaning and sleeping against a big tree, its height as tall as me. Its physique was much more muscular and solid than I am.

Although I'm not sure about the skin color because it's night... As expected of a high-ranked goblin, its color is kinda greenish.

I activated **[Appraisal]**

– **Hobgoblin Fighter** – Lv 12

Endurance: 230

Physical Strength: 340

Magic: 110

Spirit: 110

Agility: 230

Skill: Two-handed Sword mastery

Hobgoblin Fighter, huh? There was a big sword on its feet, so its might have used that to attack. The skill is also suitable, two-handed sword mastery.

Its status was not a big deal.

When I approached it quietly, oops, from the other side of the gigantic tree, there is another one there.

I used **[Appraisal]** even though I could guess what it was based on the shield leaned nearby it.

– Hobgoblin Guard – Lv 12

Endurance: 440

Physical Strength: 220

Magic: 110

Spirit: 110

Agility: 110

Skill: Endurance strengthening (Medium)

Oh, it seems to have endurance strengthening (Medium)? As I predicted last time, there seemed to be a stage in the status enhancement system. (Small), (medium), and then there should certainly a (large) based this flow.

When I finished checking, I first cut off the neck of the sleeping hobgoblin guard. It was dead while sleeping soundly, it passed away without suffering.

[Glutton skill activated]

[Endurance +440, physical strength +220, magical power +110, spirit +110, agility +110 have been added to status]

[Endurance Strengthening (Medium) has been added to skills]

Well then, one remained... Ah, it seems it woke-up.

The Hobgoblin Fighter seemed to have woken-up because it sense something abnormal and it tried to speak, it might call for reinforcements.

Like I will let that happen. I thrusted the black sword Greed into its mouth where the yellowish teeth lined-up.

[Glutton skill activated]

[Endurance +230, physical strength +340, magical power +110, spirit +110, agility +230 have been added to status]

[Two-handed sword mastery has been added to skills]

After I devoured the hobgoblin, I was filled compare with the goblin.

If it's like this, I wish I went to the forest and went straight to Hobgoblins without massacring the normal goblins like earlier.

Since I still felt starvation, I used [Appraisal] to check my own status.

- Fate Graphite - Lv 1

Endurance: 8041

Physical Strength: 8011

Magic: 2501

Spirit: 2501

Agility: 5591

Skill: **Gluttony, Appraisal, Mind Reading, Concealment, One-Handed Sword Mastery, Two-Handed Sword Mastery, Physical Strength Strengthening (Small), Endurance Strengthening (small), Endurance Strengthening (Medium).**

Well, the night is long. I continued wandering around the forest looking for my next prey.

Chapter 10

The First Rank

That was a good sleeping face. Now, goodbye.
I took down another Hobgoblin with the Black Sword Greed.

(Glutton skill activated)

(Endurance +440, Physical Strength +220, Magic +110, Spirit +110, Agility +110 have been added to status)

With this, it's my 45th kill. Oooh!?

Then, I felt the inside of my body being filled. After that, the hopeless impulse that wanted to eat has disappeared and the tide vanished...

Finally I've been released from my starvation state. I felt relieved and leaned against the nearby big tree to take a rest in a dim forest.

[Fate. If you want to take a rest, you should climb up this tree. Although rare, it may happen in the middle of the night that there is an unsuspecting hobgoblin walking around. The effect of body strengthening ability boost from the starvation state has ended. You can't detect the smell of monsters either, furthermore you won't be able to see well at night without your red eyes]

[I understand, alright!]

After Greed said that, I climbed the tree that I leaned on earlier. And then, I sat on a big branch.

[If we concealed ourselves here, it should be safe. Moreover, I need to defeat a lot of monsters to satisfy my hunger]

[That's the case. During the starvation state, you will become crazy according to the circumstances, and you will attack anyone without hesitation. You can't cancel it easily either. Although it might be unpleasant for you, you need to periodically defeat monsters and absorb their souls with your Glutton ability]

[Yeah, it seems so. This kind of starvation state, I don't want to feel it again]

I lied down for a while and took a rest.

The moonlight penetrated between the branches in various places on this forest. It felt damp and it was a little chilly, but it felt comfortable for me who was tired.

When I looked at the ground below, there were occasionally Hobgoblins that passed by. It was said that they were not nocturnal, so they might be patrolling around. There seemed to be some others that moved actively in the middle of night too. I'm glad I followed Greed's advice.

Then, after I finished resting I wanted to go back down below, but I felt the ground shake a little, there was something big approaching.

As it got closer, I saw a big goblin. It was more than twice my height. The color of the skin was around blue-green.

It held a rough club which seemed to have been cut out from the trees of this forest by its own hands.

When the club was being illuminated by the moonlight, my face cramped instinctively. Sticky. There was sticky blood on it.

In addition, when I saw what it held with the other hand, I felt nausea.

Perhaps, it was likely have been beaten many times with that club. Although unrecognizable, I'm pretty sure it was a human.

Normal people never visit the Hobgoblin Forest this late at night. So, the corpse that thing dragged was most likely some skilled warrior that I met at the outside gate of the commercial district before I came here. Being proud to that extent and now he is dead!

However, that warrior should be someone who was accustomed to dangerous hunting at night time. So being beaten into that state, the big goblin must be very powerful. The big goblin passed under the tree where I was.

I'm curious with this big goblin so I used [Appraisal] to it.

- Goblin King - Lv 30

Endurance: 21000

Physical Strength: 24000

Magic: 5230

Spirit: 4560

Agility: 11200

Skill: Auto-Recovery

Goblin King!? This fellow...

The servants of the Hearts family have said that the Goblin King is like a boss of the goblins around here, it is insanely strong. Because there are only a few in the forest, the encounter rate was very low, but if you met one of them, you must prepare for death. This was a monster which can be defeated easily if you were a Holy Knight. However, if you were an ordinary warrior, a single blow will bring you an instant death.

With its status certainly that would be the case. When I compared it with the Hobgoblin, it's entirely different.

The skill is seems also useful. Appraisal stated Auto-Recovery.

Auto-Recovery: Heal the wound at the regular intervals. Unable to heal a fatal wound

Ooo, it's really good skill. If I had it, it's possible for me to keep fighting even if I got injured.

I want it!

However, I can't kill it with my current status. What should I do? If I took more time, the goblin King would go deeper in the forest.

It is a monster with few in numbers. Even after I become stronger, trying to find it again would be a challenge.

Alright, I have decided.

I quietly got off from the gigantic tree and started following the Goblin King. It was the king of this forest so it calmly walked forward without caring.

There were no Hobgoblins at all where the Goblin King went. Most likely they have noticed its footsteps and ran away.

The destination that this fellow walking to was a round empty clearing with a small flower bed inside the forest. There was one gigantic withered tree at the center. Its sat down, leaned on the tree and put down the club in its hand.

Kuchakucha... I heard unpleasant sounds. Even I who lurked in the trees was able to hear it.

The Goblin King ate the defeated warrior. It looked delicious.

Sometimes, I heard munching sounds and the bones crunched too.

Uee... While I held down my nausea, Greed said something.

[This is natural, so you don't need to surprised]

[What do you think would be happen to humans who were killed by monsters? You surely understand. Oh, they are delicious. The monsters love to feast upon humans. Especially to human children...]

[I know, just stop it. I already know. However, this is my first time seeing it]

The monsters ate the human. I already knew about it. But, understanding with the imagination in my head, it was quite different by seeing it in actual reality. When I saw the fresh meat, I was more shocked than I thought.

After I calmed down for awhile, I stared at the Goblin King again. It seemed already okay now.

Its seemed it was still enjoying its meal.

If I wanted to fight it, aiming for the blind spot on its back seemed like the best strategy. Since this was a flower bed in an open space, there is no obstacle to hide.

While watching over the Goblin King's appearance, I moved forward while concealing myself from tree to the tree.

And then, I was reached right behind it. The withered gigantic tree covered me, so I could only see the Goblin King's shoulder.

[Go slowly from here]

[Yeah]

I paid close attention and stepped, entering the flower bed.

As usual, the Goblin King seemed busy with its meal.

My heart rate went up because of the tension, I quietly drew my breath.

I succeed reaching the withered tree at last. I could hear the munching sound from the opposite side.

[Fate, make your move now!]

Through the mind reading skill, I heard Greed's voice which gave me the signal. I moved and slashed down my black sword to the right shoulder that was visible from

the gigantic tree.

Gyaaa—!?

The right arm which was the size of a log was chopped off.

While I was relieved my preemptive strike was success, Greed brought back my attention.

[The fellow is not dead yet. Retreat now!]

When I jumped back behind, the Goblin King raised its club and swung it at the withered tree where I was a moment ago

Its power was overwhelming, the ground shook and many stones flew.

I'd probably die if I got hit by that.

[That was dangerous. I'm saved]

[It's still too early to feel relieved. It's coming]

After it lost its right arm, the bleeding Goblin King roared, and it raised the club with its left hand.

When I was thinking about evading it, Greed said,

[Have faith in me. You'll have no problems with that sort of club.]

[If that's the case!]

Believing Greed, I stepped forward and made my attack. From where I cut, the Goblin King's club slid off and fell to the ground.

What an amazing sharpness. I went and aimed to finish it off.

In addition, I continued my attack and raised the black sword while jumping.

Gyaaa. The Goblin king raised its voice and fell on its knee.

The left hand which was cut flew away.

Even when its body was covered with wounds, it stared at me as I thrust my black sword into its face.

An unpleasant sense and sound have been transmitted from my hand, but I don't mind it and keep pushed my thrust.

After I pulled out, I shook off the Goblin King's blood which was attached onto my black sword.

(Gluttony skill activated)

(Endurance +21000, Physical Strength +24000, Magic +5230, Spirit +4560,

Agility +11200 has been added to status)

(Auto-Recovery has been added to skill)

In the battle, most of our opponents were usually on the same rank as us. There is a feeling of tension that is nonexistent in our monster hunting. Perhaps it's the feeling of dying, the feeling we might be dying in the battle.

Therefore, the sense of accomplishment from winning the battle and surviving became larger than usual.

This is might be the real pleasure of monster hunting.

As my feeling of tension lowered, Greed said that to me while I was sitting down.

[You did well. With this you have saved quite a lot of status. In that case, let's unlock my first rank]

[The first rank?]

[My new form. By offering the user status as offering, my form can increased. What do you think? Do you want to try it?]

[How much status needed?]

[The starting point is when you meet me for the first time. You must offer all of your power obtained from there up to now, so you can unlock my first rank]

In another word, even though I have strengthened myself with great effort, to upgrade the Black Sword Greed, I need to return to the starting point again after I met him? In addition, it is said that the status on the first rank took the cost from my current status, so it means the second rank, third rank... it will be necessary to dedicate even more status for them. It is also depended on the user's mental status as the trigger, so I don't know if I could unlock it when there was something missing.

I guess I have no choice... Good grief, when I listened how much power that Greed needed, he said (It's because I am Greed, so I am very greedy) to answer me.

[You want to get yourself stronger, do you want to make me stronger too, choose! I will say this, you won't regret it if you strengthened me]

Well, I don't think it's necessary for me to think it over. Greed is my partner. If there is possibility to strengthen both of us, then we will become more reliable in the future.
[Understood. Please do it]
[Then, I'll go without hesitation!]

Was my acknowledgment needed as agreement? The black sword begins to shine, I felt almost all of my power leave my body at the same time.
And then, when the light died down, I obtained a black bow.

[This is my form on first rank, type: bow. Hereafter, I will help you in two forms, one-handed sword and bow]





My status after I offered them to strengthen Greed.

- Fate Graphite - Lv 1

Endurance: 121

Physical Strength: 151

Magic: 101

Spirit: 101

Agility: 131

Skill: Gluttony, Appraisal, Mind Reading, Concealment, One-handed Sword mastery, Two-handed sword master, Endurance strengthening (small), Physical strengthening (small), Physical strengthening (medium), Auto-Recovery.

Chapter 11

A moment to relax

It was a black longbow with a beautiful curve. But, compared with the appearance, I didn't feel any weight at all.

Greed said it's his Bow form.

[Hey, since I don't have any arrows, should I buy them separately later?]

[It's unnecessary. This is magical bow. The arrow will be formed and used by magic. You can shoot it as an experiment, there is one target by the tree on the left side, try to aim at it from here]

I wanted to say that earlier. When I turned to the left, there was an arrow that almost grazed my face. If I had moved my head too late, it might have stuck into my head.

There is only one fellow, that is able to launch an attack from such a distance. Hobgoblin Archer, the warriors in the Royal Capital also called this troublesome monster the Poop Archer.

Most likely when I was fighting against the Goblin king, this Hobgoblin Archer woke-up.

Because they're able to keep a constant distance to attack, it's bad matchup against a melee weapon. Furthermore it's attacks have a weakening effect too.

Thus, it's time to use Greed's new power (Black Bow).

I evaded the incoming shot by making the Goblin King's corpse into a shield and hid my body behind it.

[In the darkness, the Hobgoblin Archer's position is hard to detect]

[No problem. As long as you know its general location, the magic arrow will pursue and hit the target. Even a beginner would be able to do it. When you release the shot properly, it will hit the target automatically]

Then, even I who have not used bows should able to do it. Certainly... The poop arrow flew from between those trees. Then, the Hobgoblin Archer is surely lurking around

that area.

Behind the Goblin King corpse, I pulled the black bow. Then, a black arrow formed from the pulled bowstring. Is this the magic arrow that Greed mentioned earlier? After that, without targeting, I irresponsibly shoot it.

The black arrow flew and moved on its own orbit before disappearing in the deep of trees where the Hobgoblin Archer was located.

(Glutton skill activated)

(Endurance +170, Physical Strength +230, Magic +110, Spirit +110, Agility +350 have been added to status)

(Night Vision has been added to skill)

I heard an inorganic voice in my head. It seems I was able to defeat the Hobgoblin Archer.

Nevertheless, I can use this Black Bow a lot. As long as I can shoot the arrow, it will never fail to reach the target.

It is said some monsters can use magic to launch long distance attacks. With Black Sword alone, I could die before being able to approach them, so by having a weapon capable of long range attacks like Black Bow, I'm grateful for it.

I hunted monsters solo too, so I wouldn't be able to survive unless I did everything by myself. The more cards I had, the better I would be.

And I got the Night Vision skill from the Hobgoblin Archer, so I'm able to walk like it's daytime even in the darkness. Well, since I have reached my goal, I wonder if I should go home now.

When I saw Goblin King corpse, I remembered something. I chopped off both of its ears.

The Goblin Kings are few in numbers in this forest. If I took it to the Exchange facility in the Royal Capital, I could get a considerable amount of money as the reward.

But, if I were to take this, there some problems might occur. But, if I concealed it and gave it to someone else... For example, if I donated it to the orphanage without leaving any trace.

In the slums where I lived before I moved in with Heart Family, there was a poor

orphanage.

From the cracked window over there, I could put both ears of Goblin King into a bag written as donation and throw it in. It is a small gift from me who had suffered from hunger.

I want the children in the orphanage to eat their meal to full stomach with this.

Well, I have finished everything before the morning dawn rose.

I quietly moving away from the Hobgoblin forest to Goblin prairie, and then proceeded to the Royal Capital Seyfar.



Then morning came. I quietly snuck-in to Heart Family mansion, into the bed in my own room... I'm so sleepy.

After all, I had been staying-up all night because of my hunger.

When I tried to throw the Goblin King's ears into the orphanage, they had been found by the sister over there. I managed to deceive her and ran away. After that, I went to see the state of the Exclusive Shop in the commercial district.

It seemed Rafal's group had already left the store, but the curtains of the windows were opened. I was concerned about what a lot of Holy Knights were talking about. So, I decided to stake it out later.

For that, it's necessary for me to get a good amount of sleep. I got the day off from Roxy today, so I will sleep like a log.

I did goblin hunting because of my starvation state, in addition, I did various things, I'm exhausted.

When I shut my eyes, I was sucked away due to sleepiness.



Knock knock.

Someone... Knocked the door of my room.

I woke-up because the sound, I was surprised to see the person who entered my room. It was the first time that she came to my room.

[Excuse me, how are you feeling?]

It's Roxy. When I checked the clock, it was noon. It seemed I had been sleeping for a long time.

Since she was still wearing her white light armor, it's likely she came here in her free time from work in the castle. For an employee, purposely coming here... She is really a kind girl.

I have slept a lot, my tiredness had been completely removed.

[Yes, I'm alright now]

[I'm glad to hear that. But, don't push yourself, okay? I brought you some fruit, how are they?]

From the basket that she had been holding down since a while ago, she took out the grapes and put them into the plate. The large fruit of purple is ripen.

[These grapes were taken from the Heart Family territory. It was delivered to the mansion this morning]

[The grapes taste delicious. From the territory of Roxy-sama, is grape growing popular?]

I heard that the grapes were popular with the fellow employees. But, since I want to spend more time watching Roxy's face, I pretended to not know and asked her.

[Yes it is, it's because the wine making is also prosperous. Wine that is served at the mansion is also made from the territory. It is a very beautiful place. Oh yes, I had planned to visit the territory soon, so let's go together.]

[Can I!?]

The location where the delicious grapes grows up. It surely a wonderful territory. By all means, I want to go. Moreover, it's an invitation from Roxy, so I'll surely go.

While we sat on the bed as two people and enjoyed the grapes, the door knocked again. But, the person didn't enter inside, only the voice was heard through the door.

[Roxy-sama, it's about time to return to duty soon]

This voice was from a fellow servant— my superior. She was also the secretary for

Roxy. Usually she was a gentle person, but she was very strict in time management, I often got scolded.

Roxy who heard that panicked, and she hurriedly wiped her mouth with handkerchief.

[Ah, I have no time. For the remaining grapes, if you'd like, you can eat them. Then, I'll going back to work!]

Roxy gave a small wave in front of her breast and left the room.

She must be busy to replace her father as the head of Family.

I have heard this story from the senior employees.

In the five high Nobles in the Royal Capital, it is said the youngest present Family Head is Roxy.

Therefore, as her skill level and the levels of Holy Knights— are lower than the surrounding areas, I heard she had endured various hardship.

I guess this is a hardship story in an upper class society... To me who had lived as a commoner without any power, it's a different world to live in. What I can do for Roxy is talk and give her a little distraction, even if for a little while.

If, by any chance I could be a great person... No, that's impossible.

I decided to go to the drinking bar after a long absence in order to vent these downhearted feelings.

Because I haven't shown my face for a long time, the store's master may have been thinking that I might have died because of my gatekeeper work (persistently bullied by Burix Family's and harsh working hours).

I should report only about my survival.

And also today is my day off. I might get scolded by Roxy, but I will drink alcohol!

Chapter 12

The Rumour in The Bar

I changed my clothes and left my room. Since my physical condition has been improved, I told my fellow employee that I wanted to go out. And to hide it from Roxy, I told them that I just wanted to get some fresh air. People of the Heart Family are all nice people.

I walk from the Holy Knight district to the commercial district. However, I didn't go to the bar directly because it was just past noon, so I decided to kill time.

Though I say that, currently I only have one silver coin and 20 copper coins. Since it's not payday yet for Heart Family employees, I cannot shop for anything expensive.

The amount of my money will be reduced even more when I spend it in the bar later, so I go to the flea market where I bought the black sword Greed.

At that time, when I came to the stall where the shopkeeper was being arrogant, my clothes were dirty so I was not treated as a guest.

However, as a Heart Family employee now, my personal appearance is decent. Now if I enter his shop, I'm likely not gonna be treated like last time.

When I looked at the stalls while walking around, searching for bargains, I used the Appraisal skill. Even if I don't have any knowledge about the items, I can see its value.

If I do this well, I can buy the items cheaply and resell them. Well, even if I want to sell the items—if I don't have customers to sell them to, I guess that doesn't work.

Even without doing that, there are various things I can do. I'll try [Appraisal] with this large elegant plate on my hand.

[Oh, this is amazing. The cracked plate was restored beautifully. Although I don't understand it, it is splendid work. The other plates are also same]

Just then, the shopkeeper who was negotiating with the customer by my side, glared at me with a stern expression.

In addition, the customer got angry after he heard my voice, pushing back the plate that he wanted to buy from the shopkeeper. And after he said he had been cheated, the shopkeeper replied that he was not being cheated, and a large debate started.

This is... an unpleasant situation. I went away before got caught in it.

[Yaa, that was dangerous]

[Be careful from now on. People with the Appraisal skill tend to be disliked by merchants]

Greed warned me of my careless behaviour.

[People who lie to the others for profit are the bad guys]

[Well, although you're correct, they did that to eat. Their circumstances require them to lie.]

In the flea market where the lonesome merchants gather, it seems normal for them to be like that.

I pulled myself back together and resumed my stall rounds, when I found something interesting.

It was on the shelf, alongside a hat and helmet. It looked pretty scary, but at the same time it was strangely inviting.

I used [Appraisal] on it.

Skull Mask Endurance: 20

The ability of others to recognize the wearer is obstructed, with the wearer looking like different people to them.

I can use this!

Greed agreed with my idea.

[You found something good. This was made a long time ago for a dance party. It's an antique item, but it should work if you put some magical power into it]

It was quite cheap, priced around 40 copper coins. I decided to buy this skull mask.

The reason was because this is necessary for the monster hunting at night time. When I go hunting almost every day with real face, it'll surely become a rumour sooner or later among the Warriors.

For someone like me, who would want to conceal his identity while hunting, the recognition obstruction ability of the skull mask could be very useful.

I passed over 40 copper coins to buy it from the old shopkeeper.
I wrapped it in cloth and kept it inside my breast pocket.

I bought something good. Since this is Royal Capital, rare items are often flowing, even in places like flea market.

From now on, it might be good to come here regularly to look for bargains. Well, with that said, I should go to the bar soon. If I stay here any longer, I might find something else I want and end up wasting my money.



As I entered the drinking bar, the shop was bustling with miserable men.
Oi oi, what does it mean to drink in daytime?
If it's anything like the usual, the bar should be empty at a time like this.

There was something strange, too. I went to the counter corner, which is my usual seat. Oh, but, for some reason, only this seat was vacant. And, there was a single flower in the cup above the counter.

What is this? Strange. As I tried to sit down,

[Wait, that spot's not available. It's the seat of a regular who's dead now...]

After saying that, the shopkeeper came over to the counter seat, and upon saw my face, and was shocked.

[You're alive!? I thought you were dead]

Ah... that's to be expected; I haven't shown up around here for one week, so the shopkeeper seems convinced that I died from overworking.

I see, so this flower was offered to me?

[As you can see, I'm alive. So, can I sit here?]

[Of course, by all means]

I put aside the glass with the flower on it, and sat on the seat.

[Master, some good booze and food, please!]

[Oi oi, what's happened? I thought you were gone, and here you suddenly come full of cash]

[I got a new job. The reason I couldn't come here was because I needed to learn various things]

[I see, I'm glad to hear that... Really]

The storekeeper moved his tears and disappear to the kitchen while taking the dishes. After a while, he returned with a full glass of wine and a plate of big fish.

[Hey, congratulations for your job change. I'll only charge you half price for your meals today]

[Are you serious!?]

[Yes, it's alright. I have known you for a long time after all]

I didn't know that he thought so much about me. I'm glad that I came here.

I started eating the fish I was served. I heard the fish dishes of this bar are popular.

[By the way, what's happening today?]

[Ah, they're warriors]

Hee, so they are resting for the day.

Unlike the normal work, a warrior's schedule is an irregular thing because it adapts to monster activity. On rainy days, the monsters are sheltered and hidden so it's a holiday, and during the breeding season when monsters' temperament become aggressive, so they need to assess the situation first.

However, it seems the reason is different this time. The shopkeeper told me the reason.

[When they went Goblin hunting early in the morning today, corpses of Goblins were scattered everywhere; moreover, they had been left without both ears cut off. Thanks to that, they gained a lot of profit. It sounds very strange, isn't?]

[...Hahaha... You're right...]

The cause was me!! I almost blew out the wine that I had started to drink.

Well, what I was doing wasn't bad, I thought. Though thinking about it, the shopkeeper's face was not happy.

[But...]

[What is it?]

[That's what I heard, but then, who defeated the goblins? That became the problem. Most likely it's a wandering monster who has gotten lost from another region and it's probably quite powerful.]

[A wandering monster!?]

The shopkeeper seems to have heard about it from the warriors who were making noise over there.

It seems what I had just did caused a ruckus! I am the wandering monster!

[Yeah, it seems to occur once every ten years. Therefore, it seems that the Holy Knights are gonna move because of this matter. This gives me relief peace of mind]

If an unknown monster appears on the path to the kingdom, peddlers do not want to die, so they will refrain from traveling to the capital.

As the result, the logistics to the Royal Capital will be affected, the prices will rise and the management of the bar will be difficult.

That's because of me... However, I can't stop that... Moreover, the appearance of the Holy Knights?

[Who will take charge of the Holy Knights?]

[Ah, it seems to be the second son of Burix Family that you hated, Hado-sama. Since he doesn't have battle experience in Gaul yet, this kind of easy investigation will earn him credit]

When I heard that name, I thrust my fork into the center of my fish.

Don't tell me, for a Holy Knight from the distinguished family to appear on the scene, it's like flying into the fire.

To suppress my emotions, I gulp down my wine.

Then, the shopkeeper tells me a different story.

[Besides that, there is an odd story]

[What story?]

[There should be an orphanage where you live, right? You see, the sisters over there offer prayers to their God every day. I'm told a small bloodied bag was thrown through the broken window during one of their prayers. It then fell to the feet of a sister, prompting her to faint. The other sisters wanted to chase after the fellow, wondering why would he make such a cruel prank. Though in the end, the perpetrator managed to escape]

The shopkeeper lets out a bellowing laugh, holding his belly...

Ah that, don't tell me... As I try to maintain my composure, the shopkeeper continues his story.

[This story continues, The angered sisters have noticed there was something being written on it, when they want to throw away the bags, which is said a donation. So they seems opening it fearfully, there was both ears of Goblin King inside. Then, it seems the sisters are pleased to cry, and they are working hard to look for the person now]

...This is, it's really what I did. Well, it's okay as long as I'm not being exploded. Moreover, today I just bought the skull mask. I will be alright.

[That's pretty interesting stories. Master, another glass of Wine please!]

[Aiyo! I'll let you know when I got another stories]

I pretend to keep calm, drink wine, and eating the meal. As I thought, the meal of this bar is so delicious.

Chapter 13

The Body Who Was Lurking in The Moonlight Night

Several days had passed after that. I acted like usual, in the daytime I am a Heart Family employee. At night I'm living a double life to hunt goblins to take their souls while using my Glutton skill.

Also, I was anxious about Rafal's group. I have staked out many times on the luxury stores where I had witnessed them. However, they haven't shown their appearance in the shop. Most likely they were always changing their gathering places. But, why? I don't know their reason as the time flew by.

I could have informed this matter to Roxy, although reporting information about them plotting to do something would have zero value. She should already be suspecting that Rafal's group would do something bad. The important part was the content.

Even though I think without any information, the answer would be no. Thus if I want to know more, it's quicker to confront the related parties directly. I had reached this conclusion in these last several days.

It was said the second son of Burix Family started investigating about the wandering monster in the goblin prairie and hob goblin forest, where I rampaged back then. Therefore, I decided to put on a black hooded overcoat, the skull mask, and became the wandering monster who was feared by the Warriors in the Royal Capital.

Occasionally, I showed my appearance on purpose to the few parties of Warriors who hunted at night.

And then, from the gathered sighting information, I became well-known as the fiendish monster named Lich.

The monster who wore black hooded clothes, and there was no meat attached onto the body. Certainly, there was a part that matched the figure I was disguised as.

There were no clouds in the night sky tonight, it's a splendid night for hunting. The Warriors brought their weapons into the Goblin Prairie and the Hobgoblin Forest.

At that moment, I became Lich and ran freely in the Goblin Prairie under the moonlight night.

I killed every goblin that I found, and I let my appearance get caught briefly by the Warriors on purpose.

While keep repeating that, the worried voices about my existence among the Warriors were gradually growing.

I had killed ten goblins, and when I was resting, there was a scream that came from the grass.

[Lich is here! The Corpse has appeared, everyone run away!]

A Warrior with a severe face, looked at me who wore the skull mask, and his face turned blue as he began to run away.

Recently, I had been called the Corpse. Because I was often being witnessed standing on the mountain of the goblins' corpses.



「リツチだああ！
ムクロが出たつ、
みんな逃げろ！」

厳つい顔をした武人の男が、
髑髏マスクを付けた俺を見ると、
顔を青くして逃げていく。

最近、俺は通称ムクロと
呼ばれるようになった。
何故かと言うと、
ゴブリンたちの死体（骸）の山の上で
佇んでいるのをよく目撃される
という理由からだ。

Among the Warriors, the Goblin Loving Lich-san—Corpse, was said to start attacking humans sooner or later. Because for monsters, human is their favorite food. Although it's an unusual monster, it surely will begin to aim at humans... Even for the regular visitors at the bar, the warriors who sat next to me said that with a face filled with uneasiness and drank in desperation.

The bar shopkeeper said because the time period when The Corpse appeared was around midnight, there was no impact yet to the logistical distribution. However, if the rumour spread outside the Royal Capital, the story would be different. If the quantity stagnated, the purchasing price will rise, which may put pressure on the management of the bar.

I apologized to the shopkeeper in my mind, I was waiting for the Holy Knight-sama to make an appearance.

However, the next day, I had a business that I couldn't afford to avoid. I was invited by Roxy to accompany her to the Heart Family territory. Although I had spent a lot of trouble to make Hado, the second son in the Burix Family come out... It's really regretful.



[You looked gloomy, Fate, do you not like coming to the territory...?]

On the carriage, Roxy watched me while pouting. Only the two of us were inside here. Nevertheless, my mind had been wandering to the other matters. The strategy to pluck the bud of Burix Family was stalling for the moment.

Not good, not good. I couldn't spoil the happy moment when Roxy returned back to her home.

[That's not true. I was really looking forward for it!]

[Is it true?]

She looked at me with doubtful eyes. Was I really showing such an uninterested face earlier.

[It's true! It's time for grape harvesting now. I can't wait to join harvesting grapes together!]

[Well, you remembered it.]

[Naturally]

Every year when she returned to the territory, Roxy harvested the grapes with the people there. It was one of the few events where she could interact with the people within the territory. From the time we got out from the carriage, I felt excited because I was being highly taken care of.

Roxy's territory was located in ravine of mountains on the north of Royal Capital. It's autumn now, but when it becomes winter, the scenery changes into a harsh, snowy landscape.

However, as a result of repeated soil improvements generation after generation with the people, it became a rich and productive land. To prepare for the harsh winter, they not only harvest and stockpile crops, but they also send them to the Royal Capital in large quantities.

Apart from the wine, being able to contribute various agricultural products to the Kingdom, it was said to be the pride of the Heart family.

[I have heard it from Roxy-sama to the point I understand. These dishes seem to be so delicious!]

[Fufufu, Fate always bring the stories about foods. It's true, being able to have an abundance... There are always monsters aimed at the crops. I returned back to the territory to subjugate them]

[Monsters, huh?... They really appear anywhere]

When I distorted my eyebrow, Roxy laughed while she put her hands to her mouth.

[It's troublesome. However, if we defeat them this time, they won't come out until next year. Since I am a Holy Knight, it's not any problem at all]

[As expected. Um... What kind of monsters are they?]

[Kobold]

Kobold... If I'm not mistaken, it was a monster who gave one the impression of a walking dog. Their size was larger than mine.

It's a monster with higher rank than the Goblin. I heard it's impossible to subjugate them if the Warrior was not a powerful person.

Moreover, their group consciousness was strong, when their companions in the group were attacked, they would howl and call reinforcements one after another. Even if you hid yourself in a bush or something, you would soon be found out because their nose

was sharp. Also, they had a tenacious personality too.

As an opponent, they surely were a considerably troublesome monster.

When I was thinking about it, my stomach felt hungry.

Guuuu...

[Fate, what's the matter? Did you get hungry? You just ate a little while ago]

My belly sounded out in the front of Roxy... This is so embarrassing. What a blunder. This was surely demand from the Gluttony Skill. For some reason, I only consumed goblins for a long time.

It's about time, the urge to consume a different soul appeared.

I tried to deceive her with wry smile.

[I'm sorry. Even after I ate that much... I became hungry again]

[Fate surely eats a lot. I think it's good though. Just wait, we will arrive at the territory soon, endure it for a bit more, okay?]

After that, Roxy and I looked outside from the window of the carriage.

The vineyard that extended to the other side of the mountain. The ripened purple fruits in many trees.

And as the carriage advanced a little bit more, there was a big mansion that came into view. It had a size that was not at all inferior to the Heart's family mansion in Royal Capital.

Chapter 14

The girl with a wicked weapon

When the carriage arrived in the front of the mansion, there was a single woman supported by housemaids the both of her sides.

Her face was pale and looked sick. Her face resembled Roxy's and was very lovely. Most likely, she was...

[Mother, I have told you that greeting us is unnecessary!]

Ah, as I thought, she was Roxy's mother.

In the tea time that I often had with Roxy, I heard her mother suffered from a serious illness. To meet her directly like this, I never would have expected this to be happening.

She looked pale and seemed like she would vomit blood at any moment, it wouldn't be weird if she collapsed anytime.

Since that's what I saw, no wonder that Roxy became panicked because she was her family.

She was the last of her family, so it's natural... Moreover, the serious illness that cannot be cured even with the position and financial power from Heart Family...

[Please, don't push yourself]

[I'm alright, Roxy. My condition is better than usual today... Oh!?]

Roxy panicked in front of her mother. Her mother calmed down her and stared at me. Her face was like... a child that received a very interesting toy.

[Oh my oh my, who is he?]

[He is... Fate Graphite. A new servant that I have just employed. I wanted to introduce him to mother, so I brought him over]

When Roxy introduced me, I bowed down.

[I am Aisha Heart. I'm glad you came here at this time. Welcome]

[Thank you very much. My best regards!]

[Yes, my best regards for you too. Now, let's come inside]

After we received Aisha's instructions, without holding back, the housemaids forcibly led me inside the residence. Ooh, is this a kind of welcoming...?

Then, only Roxy stood alone on the outside.

[Wait, mother! He is my servant, you know!]

I was forcibly taken into a luxurious guest room. They made me sit on the seat of a small table near the window. And finally I was released from the restraint of the maids.

Roxy's mother sat on my front seat. Aisha, I think she was an overbearing person. A bit later, Roxy came. She puffed her cheeks, she seemed a little bit angry to her mother who did such a selfish thing.

[Mother!]

[Maa, Roxy is also come? Saa, sit here]

[Mou]

Even while saying so, Roxy sat obediently on the seat. Apparently, it was routine for the Heart family to have a tea party first after returning home.

The reason why Roxy liked tea parties was most likely because of her mother's influence.

When I am thinking so, Aisha smiled,

[Fate-san, do you like Roxy?]

Eee!? I almost sprayed out the tea that I was drinking. More like, it had blown away for a bit.

As the first thing she said after opening her mouth was a question like that, I grew flustered. Roxy's face also turned red and she lost her temper.

[What, why do you ask that?]

[Ara, I wonder if I'm did something bad? I just asked if you liked her like an employer. If you totally hated her, I cannot say that I am happy for him, right?]

Oh, I see... I was surprised. I thought it was a different meaning. A commoner and a Holy Knight, their status were too different. Even if I hoped it was possible, I knew it

would never happen.

Aisha, smiled cheerfully, and asked me again.
My answer had been decided by that time.

[I really like Roxy-sama. If it's permitted, I want to serve at her side until this life exhausted]

When I showed my loyalty to Roxy, Aisha tastefully matched both hands and she seemed pleased.

This was my true feeling. Even though I said it myself, I think that I am a mirror of a servant.

Roxy who was drinking the tea, after listening my answer, she started choking intensely. And for a moment, I saw her face redden.

[I'm going to take rest in my room. I'll see you later]

She walked out of the room in hurry.

I wonder if I did something wrong. Aisha seemed to be happy for me who became anxious.

[It seems that the tiredness from the trip to come here has appeared, there must be very busy tasks in the Royal Capital too. If she takes a good rest, she will return to the usual Roxy, so rest assured]

I was left behind by sudden Roxy's exit. However, Aisha was a good person to talk to, she told me about the improvement from the new breed of grapes in the territory and about Roxy's early childhood stories.

[Is that's true?]

[Yes, that's right, Roxy was a large crybaby when she was a young child, even when she looked at such a small bug, she would start to cry, but now she is a Holy Knight, it's very unbelievable]

Aisha's face that she showed for a moment seemed sad. She seemed worried that after she lost her precious husband, his heavy responsibility would left behind to their daughter.

Therefore, I said this with my hand put on my chest.

[Roxy-sama is a respectable Holy Knight, she is trusted by many people even in the Royal Capital, I think that Roxy-sama is doing very well as the head of the Heart family]
[I see... I am relieved... Thank you]

Aisha was moved to tears a little. As I thought, the death of the former family head became a great scar for the Heart Family, it was likely still not recovered by now. At least, I felt that way.

The tea party which had become quiet came to an end. Aisha who had bad physical condition, was told by the maids who were standing at the corner of the room that it was about time for her to rest.

After I gave my gratitude to Aisha for the tea, I had nothing to do, so I decided to take a walk through the Heart family territory. Just in case, I asked for permission and I was told to bring one maid to walk in the territory, it was so I wouldn't get lost. I said "I will not go too far", I left the Black Sword Greed to the maid and left the mansion.

Huwaa... What a vast vineyard. There was a sweet smell that entered my nose that I couldn't describe it in words.

Towards the blue sky, the green earth spreading out was really a beautiful contrast. As I walked around pleasantly, people were harvesting the grapes. They looked very busy.

By the way, tomorrow, I planned to harvest grapes with Roxy and the territory people. I had never harvested grapes before, so I don't know the procedure yet. If I failed to do it correctly, it would be bad, as I could embarrass my Lord as Roxy's servant.

I might as well practice it here now. After I prepared myself, I called the people who were picking-up the grapes.

[Hello, I am Fate Graphite, I am newly servant at Heart Family's house, would you please teach me the method to harvest grapes?]

A silence continued for a while.

Don't tell me, it's not good?... It's useless, I guess.

When I thought so,

[Oooh, do you want to help!? I'm very glad. As expected from the servant of Heart Family]

The uncle and aunt stopped gathering the grapes. And then, they taught me how to pick the grapes and how to carefully harvest the grapes.

People on Heart Family territory are really good natured people.

...That what I thought at the beginning, but before I noticed it, I had worked like horse until the evening.

Everyone was too hard working, so I could not escape to get out of the way.

When I was resting in the corner of the field, the uncle came and brought me freshly squeezed grape juice.

[I'm really glad you helped. Here, if you drink this, your tiredness will be gone]

[Thank you]

After helping with farming labour for a while, I decided to return to Heart Family's mansion.

While I advanced against the backdrop of evening sun, a strange girl walked in front of me.



Long white hair, brown skin. She was definitely not from this country. Moreover, there was a big axe that a child should not able to shoulder.

And, I'm curious with the white tattoos all over her body. Was that suppose for some rituals?

She noticed my gaze, and expressionlessly stopped on my side.

[Hey, you]

A childish and lovely voice. Moreover, her red eyes looked at me fearlessly. Those eyes, I have seen it before. This is... Don't tell me. To confirm it, I used [Appraisal] skill.

Nn? It's weird, I couldn't see anything.

[Hey, do you hear me?]

She interrupted my thought. Contrary with her docile looks, she seemed like a selfish person.

[Do you need something from me?]

[...No, it's nothing. It is still too early]

[For what?]

No matter what I asked, I was being ignored. It was a one-way conversation.

[I, at first came to hunt the kobolds, but I'll give them to you. It's a loan]

[I said, what do you mean?]

[Sooner or later, bye]

Our chat ended and the girl left.

What... was she? Those red eyes... When I became hungry because of my glutton skill and entered starvation state, my eyes were red like them.

My heart beat faster. Don't tell me... That girl was same like me?

After I saw the girl disappear in the evening sun, I turned my back.

When I turned around, I saw Roxy.

[I have been looking for you. What is the matter? You have a scary face]

[Eh, is that so? Hahahaha]

I tried to switched my feelings with laughter. Once I returned back, I needed to consult this with Greed.

This problem was unrelated with Roxy... So I don't want her to know.

Roxy inclined her neck and she looked surprised to see the girl that I met earlier.

[Why, there is Gaul person at this place?]

[Gaul person? She is...?]

The Gaul continent was the location where the monsters were running rampant until now.

However, there used to be a large country with huge military power in the past. The Gaulians who lived in the great country and who boasted of the glory were said to have died mostly due to the large breeding of monsters generated by the trigger.

Since the small Gaulians who survived proceeded to mix with the other multi-ethnic groups, it was said there were no pure-blooded Gaulian people with the old characteristics anymore.

[It's my first time to see Gaul person with the dense characteristics. Is she Fate's acquaintance?]

[No, I was only called by her for a moment]

[I see...]

We watched the Gaul girl for awhile. After she disappeared, Roxy smiled while saying [It's really mysterious, right?].

[Fate, what did you do earlier?]

[I was taught how to pick grapes. Then, I helped with harvesting... to the very end]

[Fufufu, I see. Since we will working hard tomorrow, don't overwork yourself. Now, let's return back]

Chapter 15

Eating Side Dishes

In the Heart Family's mansion, once I and Roxy returned, dinner was busily being prepared. When I tried to offer my help to the housemaids, they politely declined [No, thank you].

And, since my clothes were muddy, I was told to take a bath.

Certainly, as I had been harvesting the grapes until evening, my clothes and I were awfully dirty. A young maid guided me to a bathroom dedicated for servants.

Hot water flowed into the small bath that one person could fit. There was a unique scent different from freshwater.

[This is, don't tell me!]

[Fufu, this is an onsen. There are places where the source springs in some places within Heart family territory and then it has been set-up to flow into the mansion. This is one of enjoyments as Heart Family's servant].

[It's really wonderful. So this is the rumoured hot spring...]

It was my first time watching hot spring.

I scooped the hot water that will come out abundantly with my hand.

[Although it's not transparent, but it's clean somehow]

[Yes. this water is good for your skin. Even your mud-covered body will become almost radiant. Please put your clothes in this basket. I will put your change of clothes here.]

[Thank you]

After she finished explaining various things, she went out of the bathroom, and I took off my clothes.

Nn? I notice the door gap had opened a little. From there, it was the young maid who was supposed to have left there. While smiling, she quietly asked me.

[W-what!]

[Shall I wash your back?]

[N-no thanks! I can do it by myself!]

As I replied to her with a stiff face, she closed the door as if disinterested. I was surprised... Did you go that far to take care of me?

Well, I think that it was a good thing for the employees to make jokes to brighten the mood. This place had the same gentle air as the Heart Family's mansion in Royal Capital.

I washed off the mud that was attached to my body in the bathtub. Fuwaaa... I'm reborn.

The warmth wrapped around me and it was very comfortable. I began to think I wanted to be a child of this house. Well, it's impossible though.

After I finished with the bath, I thought to help with the preparation for dinner, but everything had already ended.

As a servant of the Heart family, that was unpleasant. When I stopped one of the maids and asked them if there was anything that I could do, they said there was none in particular. I had been told that it seemed that I was to be treated as a guest by Roxy. Finally, there was someone who called me.

[Roxy-sama called you. Please go the large room in the inner part from here]

[Understood]

I walked with my footsteps echoing, and opened a big door to the said room.

A lot of dishes were being queued up in a big table in the center of room.

And, there was only Roxy sitting at the table. The housemaids stood in the corner of the room, so they can serve at the table anytime.

I see... So that's the reason.

Without any hesitation, I joined the housemaid rows. Even if I received the guest treatment, I was still an employee of Roxy.

In that case, serving the table for my Master was my duty.

Fufufu, let's show off what we had learned in the mansion in the Royal Capital here.

Wine? Soup?... Come!

When I thought the time to show my skill as servant had come at last, suddenly,

[Fate, you're sitting here, you know? Not over there, here]

Roxy pointed at vacant seat next to her.

Eh, was it alright...? I saw the housemaids who stood in rows.

As I did that, they all simultaneously pointed at the vacant chair! Apparently they're telling me to hurry up and sit down.

I gave-up and sat on the seat to the right of Roxy. Somehow, it didn't feel right. In the Royal Capital, I ate meals together with the fellow servants.

It was my first time to eat while being stared at by the maids in this wide and luxurious place. Although I had learned basic manners, but that was from the serving side. Surely... It became like this.

When I was thinking in circles inside my head, Roxy who was next to me spoke happily.

[You don't need to worry about manners. You can eat as relaxed as you want]

[Is it alright!?]

[Yes, because Fate eats a lot, so if you kept worrying about manners, you will take a lot of time]

Actually I was considerably hungry. Then I'll start, I carried the bread to my mouth. The smell of butter melted in my mouth, it's so good!

While I was eating the bread, at the same time, the maid poured wine into my glass. Did I look like I stuffed enough down my throat to choke?

I drank the poured wine immediately.

[Fuu, it's delicious]

[I'm glad you say so. However, Fate is only eating bread]

[Ah, that's right]

As recommendation from Roxy, I ate the river fish's sauté... Delicious!

It somehow felt like a dreamlike meal, I felt anxious.

[Roxy-sama, ano... Where is Aisha-sama?]

Then, she answered me while sighing.

[It's always like this. Whenever I go home, she pushed herself to greet me... Mother is falls asleep on evening]

When I heard her answer, Roxy noticed I stopped eating.

[Fate should not worry about her. It's alright, when tomorrow comes, I'm sure Mother will be energetic again. It's just like usual]

Even though Roxy said it with a smile, I felt her real feeling was different.

If I touched her hand, I'll surely understand what she was thinking on her mind with Mind Reading skill. I wanted to know. However, I thought what would I do if I knew it, so I withdrew my hand.

[Now, since Mother is not here, Fate needs to eat everything. Now, now!]

[As expected even for me...]

She made me eat, interesting dishes were being put one after another. Even for me, my stomach had reached its limit and I gave-up. It might have been the first time I ate so much.

The fun meal with Roxy was over and I was being guided to the room that I was assigned. On the way, the young maid said something to me.

[I'm happy you came here, Roxy-sama seems to be having fun after a long time]

Her father was suddenly killed in Gaul. Her mother also suffered a serious illness. And she was very busy with her duty in the Royal Capital.

The housemaids said that they were very concerned about Roxy on this homecoming.

When you looked at the current situation, it seemed that they were relieved when they saw the cheerful Roxy.

[Please have a wonderful rest]

[Yes, good night]

The housemaid bowed her head and quietly closed the door in the room. The day as a servant of the Heart Family finished safely.

Well then, a different time will start here.

The maids had brought over the Black Sword Greed beforehand here.

[Hou, you seem to have a happy face. If you had shown a cowardly face, you would be killed by the kobolds, you know?]

[I heard about it, in the term of strength and rank, it's above Goblin, although it's not too strong. There should be no problem with my current status]

[Your pride will get to you. Then, I guess we need to head to the place where Kobolds appear]

[Yeah, I have examined it seriously]

In the daytime, when I was helping harvest the grapes, I casually asked about the kobolds. Aside from ruining the farmland, it was dangerous monster who attacked people.

Everyone knew well about it.

Every year, I heard they appeared in the place descended from the valley that exist further in the north side from here.

Yesterday, a man who went to see the situation said he saw several kobolds.

Even though it was dangerous thing to do, it needed to be done. Fortunately, the wind was blowing from the north to the south, so there was a leeward and the kobolds didn't notice him.

For many years, there had been only damage from kobolds. Speaking of kobolds alone, perhaps it may have been more detailed from the warriors.

I held the Black Sword Greed in my hand, and waited until midnight.

[It's time]

[Yeah, let's go]

I quietly left the mansion of the Heart family who fell asleep. Tonight, the moon would show my face and it was a splendid night to hunt.

I went to the north and climbed a narrow mountain road.

[Hey, Greed. Today, I met a strange Gaulian girl. Her eyes were same as me during my starvation state]

[Fuun, Is that so..., Then, do you know her name?]

[I don't know. Even Appraisal skill not working on her. What does it mean? Do you know why?]

[It's probably because she has something special. I cannot answer if you don't know her name. Did she tell you anything else?]

[Sooner or later, she said that]

[Fuu, then, it's possibly to meet her again for sure. Until that time, you can ignore it]

[What's with that?]

Greed stayed silent which was his speciality. Although I felt reluctant, I concentrated on advancing forward.

Sometimes I heard a *gashagasha* sound from the bushes. Perhaps it was a rabbit, fox or a wild beast. If it was a monster, it would have surely sprung out at me.

[This is the valley that Kobolds appear in]

[Finally, a different monster to defeat. When we only did goblins, it felt monotonous and boring]

[We will wait and see for now]

Even in the shades of thin, dark trees that the light of the moon couldn't reach, the night vision skill was working fine and I could see without trouble.

No matter where they came from, I wouldn't miss it.

After a while, there were two kobolds descending from the valley while I hid myself in the trees.

As they approached, I used [Appraisal] skill. The two of them were the same, huh?

- Kobold Junior - Lv 25

Endurance : 880

Physical Strength: 890

Magic: 350

Spirit: 400

Agility: 780

Skill: Physical Strengthening (Medium)

I changed Greed's shape into a black bow, first of all, and I aimed at one of them.

There was a sound of wind being slightly cut, as it hit at the Kobold's forehead. First down.

[Glutton Skill Activated]

[Endurance +880, Physical Strength +890, Magic +350, Spirit +400, Agility + 780 has been added to the status]

[Physical Strengthening (Medium) has been added to skill].

When its companion suddenly was killed, the remaining kobold looking restlessly on the surrounding area, and it tried to do something. Since I was not sure what it would do, I shot another arrow.

As it was being sucked in, I hit the forehead again. The kobold fell to the ground and stopped moving.

[Glutton Skill Activated]

[Endurance +880, Physical Strength +890, Magic +350, Spirit +400, Agility + 780 has been added to the status]

That was too quick. After that, I waited for a while, there were no other Kobolds showing up. Only two...? I was not satisfied.

[Usually during this period, they have entered Heart Family territory. But, these are too few]

[They are likely on guard. Every year, Heart Family's Holy Knight drove them away. That way, they watching over the situation by using the underlings, and looking for the best timing before moving]

[Ah, is that so?]

Then, if their companion who had been sent as scout didn't return, the Kobolts might not come any longer.

On the next hunt, I had to make sure the Kobolts came in mobs.

Chapter 16

The Mad Dog who bring Grievance

The next day, early in the morning, it is the grape harvest time for the people of the Heart territory.

Roxy quickly finished her breakfast and returned to her room. Since I don't need to prepare again for clothes nor change clothes in particular, I waited for her at the front door.

After a while, Roxy, who had tied up her golden hair, came. Unlike her usual clothes in the mansion, she wore some clothes which focused on durableness. She is really looks like a very beautiful village girl.



[I'm sorry to keep you waiting. Saa, let's go. Everyone is waiting]

[Yes]

I accompanied the high-spirited Roxy.

I left the black sword Greed sitting in the room. He is only used for monster hunting and would obstruct the grape harvesting. The public safety is very good in the Heart Family territory, so there is no way we're gonna be attacked by thieves, etc.

It was a clear day today as well. When we walked in the vineyard, we saw the villagers had started harvesting together.

Roxy greeted the most elderly person among them.

[Everyone is working hard together as usual. It seems we will be able to have a good grape harvest this year]

[Ah, if it isn't Roxy-sama...]

The elder bows down deeply. Then, the other people who were working in the surrounding, after noticing the Lord's appearance, started to gather together.

They hold a large amount of big grapes, to the limit of what their hands can carry. It seems they wanted to show with pride the grapes that everyone had made effort towards.

[Well, this year seems good too, as I have understood from the grapes that were sent to the residence in the Royal Capital]

[Thank you for your praise]

The Elder who became the representative, delightfully presented the harvested grapes to Roxy.

[This one... It's very sweet and delicious]

The villagers who heard it were overjoyed. Some of them jumped up and down. From this, I well understand how much they cherish Roxy.

After Roxy's greeting finished, the elder told the villagers who had gathered to return to their work.

When he saw me standing next to Roxy, he smiled.

[So you are Fate? I have heard the story. You worked hard to help the grape harvesting yesterday. As expected from Roxy-sama's servant]
[It's not... that much]

I wasn't used to being overpraised like this, it made me embarrassed.
Suddenly, Roxy's face changed into great delight.

[It's because Fate is the servant that I chose.]
[As expected from Roxy-sama. Then, should we start now?]
[Yes. Fate, let's work hard!]
[Yes, Roxy-sama]

I pushed myself to work hard. It's not like I did it because there was Roxy around...
Well, that might be the case.

Roxy, who is a Holy Knight, can carry big baskets containing grapes by herself because of her status. Everytime she does so, shouts of joy from the villagers cry out in the area.

In the heart-warming environment like this, I suddenly felt uneasy. Until when I can stay... I'm afraid to stay...

Because of the Glutton skill, I need to keep fighting for a long time hereafter.

Can I stay in a peaceful place like this? Is there any use for a man who wants to keep fighting?

When I thought of that, I had a feeling that there will be a time which I will have to travel away from Roxy's side (asylum).



Tonight, I slipped out from the mansion in the dark. If I said I don't have any guilt for it, it's a lie. However, it's important for me by all means.

If I neglect defeating monsters and consume their souls, I would fall into starvation state like before, which it need one week to end. In the worst case, I'll randomly attacking someone.

So, to not become a monster, I have to monster hunting anytime.

The cloud hangs on the moon, the dim surrounding it become clear because Night-

Vision skill.

When I was hurried, Greed talked to me.

[What is it Fate? Your mind seems fallen in disorder today]

[How do you know that? Is Greed have mind reading skill too?]

[I understand from the pulse of your hand that gripped me. Then, what is it?]

I don't want to say it. If I said it, I'm afraid that it'll become true.

[If you don't want to say it, that's fine. More importantly, it seems that the Holy Knight will start moving away from the Kobolds tomorrow. Then, you have to eat as much as you can today]

[I planned for that from beginning]

I only ate two last night. If I didn't eat enough souls by tonight, there won't be any souls left after Roxy drive away the Kobolds.

And, after she drives away the Kobolds, we will wait-and-see the situation here for two days, during that period, I'll entering the starvation state.

Well, even if I manage to endure it, I need to satisfy my hunger with swift goblin hunting after we returning to the Royal Capital. It'll surely be a tight situation.

[It's hard for me to watch you starve, surely you will go mad on the way back to the Royal Capital]

[Don't say ill-omened things!]

While the black sword Greed complained with its sharp tongue, we reached the same place as last night.

In this place, it's possible to look around the valley on the north side, since it's located downward, the Kobolds won't notice it.

A long time had passed. I yawn.

[It came]

I look closely towards the valley after Greed notifies me. There were two blue-haired Kobolds descending while cautiously looking around.

Scouts, huh? After I killed them last night, the other Kobolds didn't appear.

I hid and waited.

The Two Kobolds finish checking the surroundings and they climb up the valley.

[Will their main army come?]

[Yeah, there is no doubt]

As Greed predicted, the blue river that flows into the valley was shaken as the Kobolds descended.

It's about 50 of them?

Although most of them are Kobold Juniors, there are five large figures among them. Among those, there is one significantly larger than the rest. His hair is not blue, but silver.

Without delay, Greed told me about the incoming danger.

[It's really dangerous, but it is coming. That's a Crown]

[Crown?]

[It's a monster that has a unique name. For such thing to be born, there must have been a huge amount of Hate collected for years. It's faster if you see it with your Appraisal skill]

After being urged by Greed, I used **[Appraisal]**.

Eeeh!? This status has... 6 digits.

[Harbinger of Grief]

Assault Kobold - Lv 50

Endurance: 200000

Physical Strength: 200000

Magic: 125000

Spirit: 135000

Agility: 125000

Skill: Grappling

The high status of the Assault Kobold, and the unique name [Harbinger of Grief], it separated him with the other Kobolds. So that is the crown that Greed means.

[Fate, it's bad to let this fellow enter the territory. Moreover, it was being accompanied by four Assault Kobolds. With this kind of formation, it'll be too hard for the young Holy Knight]

[Then, in other words,]

[If you don't stop them right now, the territory will be trampled down by them]

As I checked my current status, I hold my breath.

- Fate Graphite - Lv 1

Endurance: 50201

Physical Strength: 50051

Magic: 21501

Spirit: 21501

Agility: 30901

Skills: Gluttony, Appraisal, Mind-Reading, Concealment, Night Vision, One-handed Sword Mastery, Two-Handed Sword Mastery, Physical Strength Strengthening (Small), Physical Strength Strengthening (Medium), Endurance Strengthening (Small), Endurance Strengthening (Medium), Auto-Recovery.

I gripped the black sword Greed strongly... I prepared myself.

The people in Heart's territory, I want to protect all of them.

I won't leave anything behind, I'll consume all of them.

Chapter 17

Glutton Caused by Gluttony

After I checked the state of the Kobolds, I started my action.

[Fate, do you have a plan?]

Greed seems to find it interesting. However, I think he understands what kind of strategy that I want to do.

[I'll eat while fighting]

[Do you finally understand? It's about time for you to detach yourself from the normal way that everyone else fights; I was actually getting into trouble because of it. You need to keep fighting while slowly consuming your enemies' souls]

I set-up the black bow while paying attention to being focus. I aimed at one Kobold Junior.

The magic arrow accurately pierced the left eyes of the Kobold Junior.

[Glutton skill activated]

[Endurance +880, Physical Strength +890, Maguc +350, Spirit +400, Agility +780 has been added to status]

The start of the hunt is signaled by the inorganic voice in my head.

I shot the second arrow at a Kobold Juniors eye, and a shot at a third. My status rose further.

I was attacking from a location that I have made sure to be safe. The Kobolds' formation began to crumble into disorder. However, the Crown Kobold raised its voice and calmed the other Kobolds.

And then, judging the direction where the arrow flew from, it gave instructions to the Kobolds.

As I thought, this crown Kobold is strong and has a cautious character.

It is a fact that it sent scouts yesterday and today before it came down to the valley

after confirming its safety.

The Crown Kobold doesn't move from his spot, making two Assault Kobolds and ten Kobold Juniors go to the direction where I'm lurking.

[They came. Go retreat now]

[Yeah]

I quietly withdraw straight to the depth of the forest. Now, they will trace my smell that remains here.

I hide in the shadow of a big rock that I found within reasonable distance. Although I'm in a hidden place, the smell of my trail still remains. The Kobolds will find me easily.

If I do not do that, I will be troubled even after I invited you all.

[They came, Fate]

I take a sneak peek out from the big stone, and I appraise one of the Assault Kobolds.

- Assault Kobold - Lv 40

Endurance: 50000

Physical Strength: 50000

Magic: 27000

Spirit: 28000

Agility: 45000

Skill: Agility Strengthening (Medium)

It seems my status is higher than its. Then, I will aim for the small fish first.

I did a preemptive attack on the Kobolds who were trying to surround me, who was hiding behind the rock.

I jumped on the rock, continuously shooting with the Black Bow.

Five Kobold Juniors, Six, Seven... I won't let you to escape. Even if you try to evade, this magic arrow will pursue and pierce you without fail.

All of the Kobold Juniors who had surrounded me were defeated.

Hearing the inorganic voice in my head, instinctively I smile broadly.

If you defeat a lot of small fishes, it'll definitely become helpful. That's what I have learned through Goblin hunting.

Now only two Assault Kobolds are the remaining pursuers.

Although my status exceeded theirs, there was not a great difference.

Still, if I can kill one of them first, the other one will be dead in no time.

While jumping off the rock, I change the weapon mode from Black Bow to Black Sword. The Assault Kobold tried to tear me up with its sharp claw, swinging down its right arm.

However, it was too late to move. I easily slipped into its bosom, bisecting its belly like the big tree beside it.

While blood sprays out, the upper body of the Assault Kobold falls off.

[Glutton skill activated]

[Endurance +50000, Physical Strength +50000, Magic +27000, Spirit +28000, Agility +45000 has been added to the status]

[Agility Strengthening (Medium) has been added to the skill]

With this, the other Assault Kobold won't be any issue.

Its existence is already like a Kobold Junior to me. It's possible for me to hunt him without any difficulty.

Did you instinctively notice the quality of killing intent that I release has changed? The Assault Kobold begins to take some distance away from me slowly.

And it crawled like a dog and ran away. I'm sure it will ask for reinforcements from the Crown Kobold.

[Don't let it escape]

[Without you saying it]

I change the black sword Greed into its black bow form, and release several magic arrows at the Assault Kobold, which is running with its tail bent in fear. With every shot hitting square on the back of its head, it doesn't even have time to cry out as it dies.

[Glutton skill activated]

[Endurance +50000, Physical Strength +50000, Magic +27000, Spirit +28000, Agility +45000 has been added to the status]

I was suddenly filled full of vigour. W-what is this... This pleasant and euphoric feeling must be related with the Glutton skill.

While I suppressing my high, I checked my status with [Appraisal] skill.

- Fate Graphite - Lv 1

Endurance: 161641

Physical Strength: 161621

Magic: 80051

Spirit: 82701

Agility: 131041

Skills: Gluttony, Appraisal, Mind-Reading, Concealment, Night Vision, One-handed Sword Mastery, Two-Handed Sword Mastery, Physical Strength Strengthening (Small), Physical Strength Strengthening (Medium), Endurance Strengthening (Small), Endurance Strengthening (Medium), Agility Strengthening (Medium), Auto-Recovery.

My status has considerably approached the status of the Crown Kobold. If I can just consume one Assault Kobold, it'll be almost the same.

I went back to the location where the Crown Kobold was located with a different route from the one I left from.

I quietly looked at them from the space between the trees. They are still there.

The Kobolds made lines to protect the Crown Kobold.

It is really a careful guy.

Well, no matter how long you wait for your Kobold followers that you sent, they won't return anymore. I have converted them into my own power to defeat you.

As a return gift, I'll send you magic arrow. To gain more power, I pulled the bow and shot the arrow.

The magic arrow avoided the Kobold Juniors and moved in a complex trajectory before piercing the head of Assault Kobold.

[Glutton skill activated]

[Endurance +50000, Physical Strength +50000, Magic +27000, Spirit +28000, Agility +45000 has been added to the status]

When they received another surprise attack that killed an Assault Kobold, the lower-ranked Kobold Juniors were shaken and began to be frightened.

Their formation is falling apart; after all, the dogs cannot go against their instinct of fear.

Without any hesitation, I dashed out from my cover and drew closer.

The Crown Kobold intercepted and counterattacked me, however, my status currently almost is the same of this fellow's.

A sharp claw swirls through the wind and slightly tore up my shoulder, but I successfully cut down the last Assault Kobold who was standing in the back with my black sword.

I slide onto the ground with my current momentum and face the Crown Kobold while keeping distance.

[Glutton skill activated]

[Endurance +50000, Physical Strength +50000, Magic +27000, Spirit +28000, Agility +45000 has been added to the status]

Now, I have surpassed, no, overtaken you.

Because of the Auto-Recovery skill, the scratch on my shoulder healed at once. It's a really handy skill.

I confirmed my status—the power that is overflowing within me without stopping.

- Fate Graphite - Lv 1

Endurance: 261641

Physical Strength: 261621

Magic: 134051

Spirit: 138701

Agility: 221041

Skills: Gluttony, Appraisal, Mind-Reading, Concealment, Night Vision, One-handed Sword Mastery, Two-Handed Sword Mastery, Physical Strength Strengthening (Small), Physical Strength Strengthening (Medium), Endurance Strengthening (Small), Endurance Strengthening (Medium), Agility

Strengthening (Medium), Auto-Recovery.

While the Kobold Juniors ran around trying to escape, only the Crown Kobold was left, glaring at me hatefully.

Chapter 18

Greed's Blow

Only this Crown Kobold was different from the other Kobolds. Even after it felt that I was stronger than him, he didn't lose his fighting spirit.

From its sharp semi-circle eyes, I felt his hatred at me getting stronger if we kept attacking each others.

The Crown Kobold was careful character, however, once it was being pushed back, its personality would change.

We glared toward each others for awhile. I checked the Crown Kobold's skill possession by using **[Appraisal]**.

Martial Arts: Increases attack power when fighting bare-fisted in very close quarters combat. Capable to use [Chun Jin] arts to destroy the opponent inside body. (TL Note: [寸勁] = *Chun Jin (chinese) / Sun Kei (japanese)*. *Chun Jin* is One Inch Punch. *Sunkei* is a punch in the karate)

I see... This is its trump card. Even if I exceed its status, if I was hit by this [Chun Jin] at point-blank range, my bones and internal organs would surely be crushed.

Well, then I just need to careful with our distance. I set-up the Black Sword Greed and looked for an opportunity from the Crown Kobold.

[Fate, let's clean them up at once. With our current status, I can use the 1st rank secret skill]

[Secret skill!?]

[Yes, secret skill. Once you use it, there is no need to worry about being blocked, everything will be blown off.]

While keeping the Crown Kobold in-check, I listened to the necessary steps to unleash it.

[It's easy. Give 10% of your status to me]

To use this secret skill, I just need to sacrifice 10% of my status to Greed, huh...? When I was unleashed out the first rank, most of all my status were robbed. And when using secret skill, it was being told that it also takes a part of my status. You are really a greedy weapon.

[Can you reduce it to 5%?]

[It's impossible. 10% is already the lowest line. If you want to raise the power, you need to sacrifice more]

[Stingy]

[It's because I am Greed after all, gahahaha]

I wondered how much this Black Sword Greed would take away the status from me. This fellow's greediness was a bottomless swamp.

Still, if possible, I would like to avoid approaching close battle against the Crown Kobold. In battle experience, its likely higher than mine, there was also possibility of my body being destroyed if I failed to evade the Chun Jin arts too...

However, if I released the Black Bow face-to-face while taking a distance, it is likely the shot would be taken down. For bow, the theory is to be used to attack from the cover so the opponent won't notice us.

To experiment it, I changed the shape of my Black Sword into a Black Bow, and then shot a magic arrow at the Crown Kobold.

Ah, as expected.

The Crown Kobold captured the neck of one of Kobold Juniors near it and used it as the shield from magic arrow. The Kobold Junior who became meat shield, blew white foam and stopped breathing.

[Glutton skill activated]

[Endurance strength +880, Physical strength +890, Magic +350, Spirit +400, Agility +780 has been added to status]

When I heard the inorganic voice, I decided to use the secret skill of 1st form.

[I understand, Greed!]

[Well said, Fate! I'll get your 10% status!]

From the left hand who gripped Black Bow, I felt my power being absorbed. With it, there was a dramatic changed from Black Bow's shape.

It turned bigger, felt more ominous, and the appearance changed.

Absorbing my power, the Black Bow temporarily enhanced, I couldn't help but feel overpowered in this unknown situation.

This was not an ordinary weapon anymore, it's a super weapon. I felt an overwhelming presence from it.

[What was that dumbfounded face for? You should start now. The Crown won't stay idle forever]

[Ah, I know]

[How to unleash it as usual, pull it, and then release! Everything will be automatically corrected afterward]

This weapon was surely very strong. If there was no auto-correction, I doubt I could handle it at all.

As being pointed out by Greed, the Crown Kobold made its move. As soon as it saw the big transformation from the Black Bow, it went to attack me. It thrusted its thick arms forward while guarding.

Even if it lost an arm, I felt like it would be aiming to eat my throat with that sharp fang. Or, do you aim to use Chun Jin by kicking? Either way, it does not change that attack is dangerous for me.

Let's test if the Crown Kobold can endure the attack from the temporary super weapon Black Bow.

[Shoot it! Fate!]

At the same time as Greed said it, I shot the Black Bow arrow. The recoil was horrible. I was pushed back greatly.



With a thunder-like boom, the released magic arrow turned into a black stream, engulfing the Crown Kobold. It then further swept away even the flustered Kobold Juniors in the back...

It truly looked like a huge black river had appeared in the valley...

All that was left was a deep scar left in the ground where the stream traversed. You could say that not even the 'K' in kobold was left behind. It was destroyed, not even leaving behind a single hair.

[Glutton skill activated]

[Endurance strength +228160, Physical strength +228480, Magic +136200, Spirit +147800, Agility +149960 has been added to status]

[Grappling has been added to skill]

From the inorganic voice, I understood that the Kobolds and the Crown had been annihilated.

The Black Bow which had turned into a super weapon exhausted its power and slowly returned to its original shape. And, it became the usual Black Bow which I was accustomed to.

It ended... When I was feeling relieved, the souls that I had obtained a little while ago, an unexpected euphoria surged in. If the pleasantness exceeded, it seems to become suffering instead.

Guaaaaaaaaaa... Why...

I scratched my throat and writhed in the ground in delight. No, it's more like rapture, it sprang in my body and went up.

[Glutton] skill, it goes mad in pleasure after having consumed the soul of Crown monster, in return I also got affected.

Greed's voice in my mind kept me from fainting.

[Fate, control yourself! If you're not able to do it, you will turn into a state like the starvation state. No, it'll become much worse than that. Bear with it and endure!]

[Even if you say that, this is...]

I kept my consciousness while striking my head several times over the rock that was close to me, and managed to keep waiting until the Glutton's surge calmed down.

[It seems have calmed down]

[Yeah, that's really awful. Am I gonna become like this everytime I consume a Crown?]

I wiped off the drool from my mouth with a sleeve, and checked the scratches on my head.

Thanks to **[Automatic Recovery]** skill, it has been healed.

I'm glad that I have **[Automatic Recovery]** skill

[Well, that should be the reaction when you consume a good quality soul for the first time. You will get used to it, and from then on, when the surge from the Glutton skill appears, you will likely not be as reckless as earlier. Honestly, I do not know what will happen if you consume something like the Heavenly Dragon class]

[I did not know how I can eat such living natural disasters!]

[Hahaha, indeed]

I sat down and looked at the night sky. The moon which was being covered by the cloud, it slowly shone at the surrounding.

The Kobolds' advance had been completely stopped. However, I had no word to say to the valley which was being exposed by the moonlight.

[We overdid it! Such a beautiful valley...]

[Don't worry about it, it was overwhelming victory. There is no result better than this. Right, Fate?]

[How should I do... About this. When morning comes, it will surely become an uproar]

[That's shouldn't be a problem. After 1000 years pass, it's natural the geographical features will change too. You exaggerated about the fact that you made the green valley stark naked. I'm sure it will return likely within 100 years]

The inorganic Greed, this fellow doesn't seem to live in the same timeflow as me. However, in 100 years...

What should I do with this disastrous scene.

The trees fell radically, the natural and rich valley was in horrible state.

Well, the incoming crisis on the territory that Roxy governed has been repelled. However, this is... How should we repair it? I seriously don't have any idea about it.

Chapter 19

The Oath of Promise

Before the dawn came, I managed to return to Heart Family residence. Having fought against the Crown Kobold and the delight from the Glutton Skill that happened afterwards, I was tired. I leaned the black sword Greed against the desk in the room and fell into bed. My consciousness faded out in no time.

...I woke-up because of the strong light that got through the windows. Nn? Based from the height of the sun, it's already noon.

Don't tell me, I had fallen asleep for too long? I went to straighten my personal appearance in hurry and then went out of the room.

When I passed by a maid, she intentionally sneered at me and said.

[Oversleep-san, finally you woke-up. If you don't change your attitude, you will get fired by Roxy-sama, you know]

[Eee, that's... Where is Roxy-sama? I want to apologize for my blunder...]

When she saw me get flustered, the maid seemed happy. What the hell, you should not be laughing when I might get fired from my job! When I thought like that,

[I'm sorry for laughing. It's because you showing face like a puppy that seemed like it was gonna be thrown away. It's so amusing, fufufu. Sorry about that. But, my words earlier were a lie]

[What do you mean?]

[Roxy-sama had ordered everyone to let you sleep]

While I was still surprised, the young maid continued.

Apparently, Roxy got worried about me who did not get up even in the morning, so she went to check by herself. After she knocked the door on the room, but received no reply, she opened the door and entered the room, and she saw me with my big mouth open and sleeping.

Having looked at me like that, Roxy seemed to think that I gotten tired from yesterday's grape harvest, so she told the maids to let me sleep as much as I could.

[Is that so?]

[Since you have received Roxy-sama permission, you can go back to sleep]

[No, no, I'm alright. I have slept enough]

There is no way I can go to sleep again. For the time being, let's go to apologize to Roxy.

[And then, where is Roxy-sama now?]

[Yesterday, you have already being told right? She is leading the men to hunt the kobolds]

Did she already depart? Toward the valley that had been destroyed.

Roxy who saw it would be surprised. And, I am concerned about what conclusion she would be drawing. Well, there should be no evidence that I was the one who did it, so let's keep calm now.

[When she will be returning?]

[Let's see. Based from the last year experience, it probably tomorrow morning. Kobolds are nocturnal after all. That's why they will lay the traps during daytime, and then keep hunting until the next morning]

[Tomorrow, huh...]

Since it's like that, I'm convinced that she will return by the end of today.

If anyone saw the disastrous scene of the valley, they would likely understand someone had fought against the kobolds over there.

Besides, if the Kobold still remained behind the valley, I cannot imagine that they would be coming to fight in the Heart Family territory. There was Roxy who had pursued the Kobolds every year, so they should understand that from the experience.

Well, it will likely become uproar once she returns back. I must be careful and cautious before that...

When I was still thinking,

[You, really like Roxy-sama, aren't you?]

Because she suddenly said that, I raised a strange voice. I was just a servant, who only thought about my master... That's all.

[What's that all of a sudden!]

[No need to get flustered. Fufufu... Oh well]

The young maid seemed interested watching my reaction, she held back her hand to not laugh, before she returned back to her work.

[Wait, please wait. Is there anything that I can help?]

I would have liked to have a chance to recover the honor as an oversleeping person here. Even though I had been treated as a guest in this mansion, I was still a rookie servant.

I cannot afford to receive my pay without doing anything.

Then, it seemed my enthusiasm was transmitted, the maid inclined her head,

[Let's see, then can you look after Aisha-sama? She seems like she needs someone to accompany her]

[Understood! I'll do my best!]

After she explained to me Aisha's room location, I expressed my gratitude to her, and started running.

[Hey, don't run in the passage! It's dangerous if you crash with someone!]

[Sorry!]

Whoops, I just did something improper as a servant.

I apologized to the maid and then started walking quickly.

Aisha was staying in her own room. I knocked several times at the door which was several times better than my guest room.

A bit later, I heard an answer from the inside.

[Please excuse me]

[Ooh, Fate. You're just in time. I can only watch the scenery from the windows, so I'm free right now]

As she showed an innocent smile like a girl, Aisha invited me inside.

Her physical condition today seemed not too good, she leaned her upper body in the bed while resting.

[Saa, come sits here]

As I was being urged, I sat in the chair next to the bed.

Aisha smiled and looked at me, after that she looked at the scenery outside again.

I was attracted, even it was just for a short time, I saw the garden of the mansion. On the mansion in the Royal Capital, although I was still a gardener apprentice, I could understand that this garden was a well-maintained garden. The gardener here probably really liked the Heart Family.

[It's a good garden]

[Is that so, that is the only place that I can see from this windows. I don't know much about it, but the gardener old man surely worked hard on it]

I see... Because of her serious illness, Aisha was rarely able to go out from the room. Therefore, she got worried for staying indoors all day]

[Let's stop making you worried...]

Aisha seemed happy. Our talk continued for a while, and the constant time of laughter passed. Since I haven't eaten breakfast yet, there was a 'guu' sound from my stomach, and she called a maid to serve snacks.

Whenever she said something, I felt her kindness which was like a mother. Well, my mother died soon after she gave birth to me, so I didn't know much about this feeling. Surely, this kind of free kindness was the one that I longed for.

When Aisha put the tea cup that she had in her hand down, she suddenly made a serious face and faced me.

[Probably I... can't live any longer]

[Don't say that. Just now you look..]

I could not say she was fine. She was still on the bed.

Aisha continued her words.

[It's so, I am still energetic for now. However, it will surely happen sooner or later. After

all, only I understand that about myself]

[...Why, do you say this to me?]

[If it's you, I thought you will be able to become Roxy's support. Can I ask you to do that?]

I was puzzled when Aisha said that.

The fact that her husband was killed in Gaullia, Roxy said that she had received a considerable shock. However, when I came to the Heart Family, it seemed that I became the one who supported Roxy's heart.

When Roxy talked with Aisha by two of them. She said [I won't stop, because I don't want to look like a lazy Master by Fate].

[Roxy had good eyes at that time. It's like that person when he was young]

[But, to a person like me...]

Our positions were too different.

Moreover, even if I had some kind of power now, I couldn't show it off too. If it was supporting her from the shadows, I wonder that was the correct being called as supports?... I feel it was something different.

When I was still perplexed, Aisha's hand reached out to me.

My **[Mind Reading]** activated, and I heard her voice from her mind.

(It's alright... Don't think about it too much)

Her hand quietly separated, her voice of mind got cut-off. After that, Aisha said,

[There is no need to think about position. There is no need for a strong power like a Holy Knight either. The most important one is here]

She pointed the tip of her finger to my chest.

[The most important one is the Heart]

[Heart... Feeling]

[Yes., I was originally a commoner who did not have any useful skills. Even so, I was able to support my husband who was a Holy Knight. Since I could do it, I believe Fate will surely can do it. I believe it]

[Aisha-sama...]

The weakened Aisha had a stronger heart than me. There was no room for me to doubt it.

Her words were very heavy for me, who had just awoken and single-mindedly requested power from the Glutton skill.

Therefore, I also wanted to be like Aisha.

Chapter 20

Turning Point

Time passed in the blink of an eye when I listened to Aisha's talk. Before I noticed, it was already evening. Since Aisha needed to take a rest, I was lost on what should I do next.

As I returned back to my own room, the inside of the mansion suddenly became very busy.

I walked out of the room, curious; apparently Roxy had come back earlier than scheduled.

The scheduled return would have been tomorrow morning. The housemaids were moving hurriedly because of this sudden return as there were many things to do, such as preparing the bath and the meals.

I glanced at them as I hurried to Roxy.

It was because I wanted to know as soon as possible about what she thought after looking at the valley where she was supposed to hunt kobolds.

There she was! She removed her light armor at the door.

[Roxy-sama! Welcome home.]

[Ah, Fate. I've just returned.]

As I thought, she looked gloomy. If anyone saw the disastrous scene of that valley, they would be like that.

Well, in return, the Kobolds seem not to be coming any longer.

My mind throbbed as I listened to Roxy...

[Did something happen? You've returned earlier than scheduled.]

[You see...]

Roxy, who finished removing her light armor, explained to me the mysterious scene in the valley.

This morning, she accompanied her armed men into the valley. And the scene that spread out before their eyes when there got there was a ravine ravaged by a powerful attack. The beautiful nature had been lost, the trees had collapsed and the ground had been gouged out.

It seemed to be unexpectedly different from the valley that they saw every year. Yeah... Even for me, who was the one who caused it, thought that it was too much, so the reactions of the Roxy and her group was unsurprising.

Roxy asked the men who followed her to immediately investigate the surroundings. There was nothing left in the valley, as if everything had disappeared; no one understood what had happened.

However, they discovered the corpses of 10 Junior Kobolds and 2 Assault Kobolds in the rocks not far away from there.

When she arrived at the scene with the guidance of the man who found the Kobold corpses, the Kobolds seemed have been killed by swords and arrows that littered the ground. All of the Kobolds were one-sidedly destroyed.

Especially the Assault Kobolds, which were quite strong monsters. They were impossible to beat down unless one was a Holy Knight.

There was also one corpse that was cut into two easily. Another one was frightened by something, as if trying to escape, the head pierced through by an arrow from behind. What was more worrisome was the the shot wound, because the arrow itself could not be found anywhere. There was also no evidence the arrow was pulled out either.

When considering who gave such injuries, the possibility of a Demon Archer came across their mind. By converting magical power into arrows and releasing it, it was a powerful weapon. It was not just an item that any warrior could possess.

It was such a wonderful weapon... while listening to Roxy's story,

[And so, I have reached a conclusion]

[Eh, that's just...]

From this much evidence, I wonder what kind of conclusion Roxy reached. Don't tell me I'll be discovered.

[I think the Gaulian girl who I saw yesterday is the one who did it]

Woops, it seems the culprit was someone that I didn't expect. However, this was... Isn't that pushing it?

I guess my face showed my disappointment, as Roxy puffed her cheeks and said.

[I understand there is no solid proof! But in order to calm down the people in the territory, I need to do it...]

The valley has been destroyed and the Kobolds have been massacred. To remove the uneasiness from the people in the territory as the Family Head, she needed to do something to reassure them.

However, the identity of the person who caused this is completely unknown based on the information from the site. Then she manages to conclude to the Gaulian girl that she saw yesterday.

The Gaulians had long dominated the continent of Gaul with their mighty military power. According to documents, their fighting ability far exceeds the Holy Knights. If that girl of Gaulian origin still had that power, the devastation that happened in the valley could be explained.

Roxy pushed out this conclusion in order to dispel the anxieties of the people, although she was actually against the idea.

I can tell by looking at her face, even if person herself is not aware of it.

[I see... I'm sorry]

[Why is Fate apologizing?]

[Eh, aa, somehow I wanted to say it. Hahahaha...]

Nope-nope. When i saw Roxy's face, I almost dangerously confessed.

Anyway, the Gaulians were strong. The brown-skin girl certainly did say that she yielded the Kobolds to me. Perhaps she would have defeated the Kobolds if she hadn't met me.

Then, let's leave the Gaulian girl as it is, she destroyed the valley and defeated the Kobolds. I'll consider this as a loan, and if we meet again, I will return this loan.

Thank you, Gaulian girl whose name I don't even know!

Everything didn't fit perfectly, but let's say that it would be nice if everyone who lived in the Heart family could live a normal life afterward.

When I thought of such a thing, Roxy said something with a bit of a troubled face.

[A few people witnessed that they saw a Gaulian girl leaving the territory early in the morning. So we are unable to ask her anymore about her reason coming here. That's why I used her for this case and done a bad thing.]

[Roxy-sama...]

I am the worst. However, it cannot be known that I fought with the power of the Glutton skill. I don't want it to be known that I can kill my opponent and take their power.

On that guilty feeling, Aisha's words pierced me. I cannot face her properly... Even though I want to be there, beside her...

[Fate, what is it? You have a scary face right now.]

[Eh, is that so?]

[You occasionally show such a face. Please talk to me if you have any worries]

[...Thank you, Roxy-sama]

I had no other choice but to answer her with empty words.



Two days later, Roxy observed the state of the valley, and she concluded that the Kobolds were no longer coming.

The Kobolds who had received such attacks might have already been annihilated, or even if there were some who survived, they may never come to the Heart family territory anymore.

Roxy who finished work in the territory, took me and decided to return to the kingdom.

We rode in a carriage, Aisha went out to the entrance to see us off, along with the other maids who were with us.

[We will go now, Mother]

[Have a safe trip. When you have a duty break, please return at any time]

[Yes. Mother should also take care]
[Of course. I'll do my best a bit longer]

While saying so, Aisha looks at me. Perhaps, she was still expecting me. She laughed and smiled.

[Fate, when you came here again, let's talk once more. At that time, I want to hear your answer]

At that time, I cannot get my mouth to answer; I put my answer on hold. The thought in mind and the reality in which I was placed still diverged.

Leaving only the feelings here, the horse carriage on which we rode started moving towards the Royal Capital.

Chapter 21

The Azure Sky

Returning to the Royal Capital. I was on Roxy's opposite side, trying desperately to hold down the backlash from my overeaten soul.

If I made any mistake, my consciousness would be eaten, which made me gush cold sweats. But then, it had already come into the territory since it was Greed we are talking about.

We arrived on the Royal Capital at nightfall.

Roxy is called upon by the Palace messenger, so she went out immediately. I guess becoming the Holy Knight of the Five Great Families causes you to have very little break time.

As for me, the master gardeners assigned me to the garden at the Heart Family mansion, to dig out roots and sweep fallen leaves. What is this? Some kind of rivalry between the royal family and the local lords?

I tried to be careful about not being around there, the parts where it could be seen from Aisha's window especially.

Then, the master gardeners said [Aren't they merely glorifying this guy too much], after appraising me for a bit.

And then, since the day had grown dark, the work for gardening apprenticeship would be continued tomorrow. I had dinner together with other gardeners and went to the bath.

While I soaked myself in the bath, one of the masters said,

[It's about time to teach you how to prune the trees in the garden. How about it, are you up for it?]

[Really?!]

[Yeah really, Fate worked fairly well. You are really worth to be taught. Everyone could see it.]

[Thank you.]

I wonder, since I've arrived at the Heart Family territory, among all the teachers, this one really think about me a lot.

The masters are already of old age, so they actually wanted to instruct a successor. That's what I am. It's really a great honor for me...

Feeling happy, I accidentally rubbed the master's back too hard.

[Ouchouchouch, give some consideration to this old man!]

[I'm sorry]

Due to my high stats, I should've been more careful in applying my strength, but it seemed that the master was quite pleased with me showing my strength.

I'll have to be careful from now on. It seems you can adjust how much the stats will be reflected on your body. Otherwise, the Holy Knights who had considerably high stats might accidentally kill other people.

After defeating the kobold leader, my stats had surpassed even those of the Holy Knights. So I guess it's time for me to learn how to adjust properly. Well, my stats will continue to rise due to Greed's strengthening, so I'll have to make numerous adjustments in the future.

Anyways, even without the skill to devour things, rapid stats rising due to winning a fight cannot be avoided.

For now, let's try to adjust while rubbing the back of the master gardener.

[Ouch, again?!]

[Ah, pardon me.]

[I'm just an innocent old man. Please treat me more carefully.]

I have so little control over it. It will take some time before I can do so naturally, apparently.



Late at night, I wore my skull mask and went to the Goblins nest.

Today, I'll hunt in the hobgoblin's forest.

Because it's been deprived of any food while I stayed on the territory, my Glutton skill was at the equivalent of an empty stomach.

Even though the forest was dimly lit at best, **[Night Vision]** skill still allowed me to pinpoint the location of the hobgoblins.

I mercilessly hunted down all of them who were sleeping on the tree roots.

[Glutton Skill Activated]

[Endurance+440, Physical Strength+220, Magic+110, Spirit+110, Agility+110 will be applied to the current stats]

I heard that inorganic voice repeatedly in my head. However, the starvation hadn't been satisfied yet.

The current condition isn't that good.

Up to this point, I'd been able to satisfy it by hunting goblins...

As for why, I think I kinda get it. It's all told by Greed through the use of **[Mind Reading]** skill.

{Glutton Skill has tasted the kobold leader. Now, it cannot be satisfied by the taste of lower-ranked demons anymore}

[But, what should I do if hunting won't satisfy its hunger...]

{Fate, you ought to understand it the most. What would happen if it was kept starved.}

If only the Glutton skill did not eat the (leader) type. If I knew it, I would've stayed with a full course of goblins instead.

However, it was inevitable with the Kobold Leader. If it left to its own devices, it might have spread its territory toward the Heart Family's land.

I felt glad that I was able to defeat it, but to think it left behind a troublesome parting gift...

[Kuu... my right eye feels hot]

After about ten more hobgoblins, I began to feel uncomfortable. I saw my own reflection through Greed's black surface. Under the skeleton mask...

[Greed, it's just as you said... it hunger.]

{Right? It's obvious to see.}

On that black surface, a red pupil is staring back at me.

My left eye was black. While my right eye was bright red. This state is...

{The state of starvation. Soon.}

I also felt it. Soon, the monsters on the vicinity of the Kingdom won't be enough to maintain the starvation level of Glutton Skill. I couldn't just wait for it to wiggle all over my body.

{Today should still be alright. But there is not much time left. It will come eventually}
[Your thoughts?]

I understand that, so I asked Greed for a way to resist it.

{You have to change your method.}

Without answering to that, I returned to the capital. I encountered several soldiers along the way, but I didn't bother to stop. They shouted after seemingly having seen through my disguise.

[The lich is back! Mukuro has returned! Run for your life!]

I put away the skeleton mask after retreating back to the Goblin Prairie where no one is around, then continued on.

[Can they be more silent?]

{Then leave you all alone?}

[Shut up]

I went back to the capital against the wind blowing along the Goblin Prairie.

The next day, I concealed my left eye with an eyepatch. I lied to employee by saying that I had injured my eye while sleeping.

As for the gardening master, [If you feel unwell, can you still learn to prune the trees?] he said, is that a scolding? Is he worrying? I couldn't tell from his voice alone, but surely he was worried about me.

[I can do it with one eye.] I replied, then he asked back [Isn't that overworking yourself?], even so I'll still prune the trees as promised.

After the master showed me how to do it using one tree, I tried to do it myself.

[How is it?]

[Not bad. Well then, try it again on another tree. I have something else to do.]

[By myself...?]

[If you have anything you don't understand, just ask me.]

[Yes]

This master valued direct practice more than verbal teaching. So there is no other way but to do it.

While aiming at one of the trees with pruning shears at one hand, I caught sight of Roxy in her white light armor walking somewhere.

It seemed that she had just returned from the capital. If it's was usual, she'd go to the main mansion immediately. But why did she looked anxious this time around?

I wanted to go after her and ask her the reason... But I shouldn't.

Roxy was kneeling at the front of her father's gravestone, and she had the expression on her face that I had never seen before. It was the kind of grim expression as if she is about to fight something.

She said something in front of the grave before standing up and proceeded to the mansion.

At that time, I was just gawking there so it's inevitable that Roxy noticed me.

[Fate, why are you here... is your left eye injured?]

Acting all cool, I showed Roxy the pruning shears.

[My left eye was injured when I slept. Anyways, I'm fairly good at gardening now. Well, I'm about to prune this tree over here.]

Saying that, I placed my hand on a tree that was right beside me. In fact, I was actually told to prune a different tree altogether.

[Ermm... Roxy-sama. Is something wrong? You look different today.]

Maybe something happened while in the castle? I'm afraid to ask directly.

That expression she had previously has already gone, replaced with the usual Roxy.

[It's nothing. By the way, prune it well or else somebody will be angry at you.]

Roxy pointed toward the master gardener who were staring at me with his arms folded. After all, it's not the tree I was told to handle.

Roxy walked away toward the mansion, while I scrambled in panic. Somehow, I had a bad feeling when I glance at her back.

Quite the opposite with how I feel, the sky was clear with no cloud at all.

After I'm done working, getting myself busy with hunting till midnight, I then visited a bar. There, I found the answer I've been searching for.

The barkeeper said it while placing the dishes on the counter nearby.

In order to beat the reappearing Lich (Mukuro), the second son of the Burix family, Hado was dispatched, and it was when I was hunting in the Goblin Prairie this evening.

And it seems the holy knight order where Roxy is serving in is also dispatched to go after me.

Hart surely understand the situation. Perhaps the Burixs are up for something, so I kept listening. Moreover, I did owe a huge debt to Hado.

I gulped down the beer to its last drop, then stood up from my seat.

Chapter 22

Things That Need to be Done

That midnight, I stayed at the hobgoblin forest to wait until Hado appeared. The place where I'm in was the flowerbed that was once the lair of Goblin King. This place seemed like a hollowed out part of the forest since there was no trees growing here.

On the center of the wreckage from when I fought the Goblin King, there is a fallen huge tree.

I sat there, with all my senses on alert.

Hado will surely come here.

Just to make sure, I had left behind several goblin corpses that lead toward this place. If he still couldn't find me, then Hado's incompetence is already beyond helping.

It's still depending on whether Hado picked up the rumour about Mukuro's habit. At present, Mukuro only attacked goblins and never any human. If Hado put this fact into consideration, he won't think that those corpses as a bait to lead him into a trap.

I could only hear the sound of leaves rustling to the wind for now, so I kept my ears open.

Why he hasn't appeared already? Was the story told by the barkeeper a lie?

While thinking of that, I began to hear different sounds. Sounds of twigs being trampled.

And many of them.

It gradually closing in to where I am. Then, the footsteps stopped right outside the flowerbed.

Not moving an inch from where I sat, I sent an observing glance toward the surroundings.

There was also movement from another side. They've started spreading out to surround the place.

Once the encirclement is finished, only then they will come.

Still, I'm not going to move. I'll give you the first strike. What I need to do, is to not let Hado escape.

Mukuro hasn't noticed our presence, it's our chance... That must be what Hado is thinking now.

Originally, Holy Knights like Hado are meant to subjugate the stronger demons that overflows from the Gallia continent. However compared to his brother Rafal, Hado who'd never saw Gallia continent is like a goldfish.

In a word, despite having a fit body, Hado is actually a rather timid person. He's the kind of guy that will only fight if he's sure that he can win. Having worked with him for 5 years, I knew that bastard all too well.

By using the seemingly easy subjugation of Mukuro as leverage, he wishes to contribute a little to the kingdom, so that he won't be sent to the Gallia continent. As a holy knight, Hado had no ambition to become stronger. That guy, he only wants to use his position as a holy knight to gain power and status. Burix family itself was a collection of those kind of people

{Fate, here they come!}

[Yeah, I can see that too.]

According to what Greed had said, the enemies had started moving. From behind, and right side, I could hear bowstrings being pulled. Due to the boost from being in semi-starving state, I could hear such minute detail as clear as day.

I jumped away from my original spot once the bows has been released at the same time, and managed to evade two arrows.

At my unexpected evasion maneuver, those people who're hiding on the forest gasped --I could sense that they're shaken.

I drew out the black sword Greed when I landed back on the ground.

{Shall we?}

[Just a little more, let's wait.]

If I don't make any move, Hado will certainly do. Even if the long range bow attack was ineffective, they still had the advantage of one against many, so they will eventually enter the flowerbed.

Hado especially loved this method of outnumbering the enemy. There is no way he'll resist this temptation.

There, as I thought he had showed up.

Along with the silver armored Hado, they were amounted to 15 person. That's a rather large company.

Perhaps, those are chosen soldiers that Burix family had employed.

Each one of them pulled out their sword, with ugly smile plastered on their face.

Looking at that, I deliberately showed a slightly troubled look.

Hado will then convinced that they are in an advantageous position.

[Hado-sama, this person seems to be the rumoured lich... Mukuro. His appearance matches our information. But even so, we already have him surrounded.]

[You are right. We are different from those people who hunt goblins for money. We are chosen ones. I'm the Holy Knight chosen by god. Stronger than anyone! Which demon who doesn't cower upon my presence? Look, even Mukuro is shaking his feet!]

[It's true. None other can do that to Mukuro with mere gaze except the holy knight]

[Hahaha, it's only natural]

Say it all you want.

Well, my acting seemed to work wonder. With just a little lick, Hado had completely fallen to my scheme.

The Burix has been causing various pains over these 5 years time. This act is quite fun... Nah, boasting over such thing will only make me feel empty.

Hado is out on the table now. Can't afford to miss it.

First of all, let's get rid of the other obstructions.

As I decided to drop the act and grasped the black sword Greed, one the men was spouting more superiority non-sense.

[Hado-sama, let us folks take care this Mukuro. Against the likes of him, you don't have to dirty your own hand.]

[Indeed, you are right. Do as you like!]

[Understood]

If that's what you think, then I really want to see you try.

Taking full advantage of my stats, I approached the guy who spoke first. Then launched a left fist straight to his face.

The man was blown off back to the forest before he could say anything more. Hado disregarded his astonishment, and attacked with the remaining 13 people. All I used was my empty left hand. Never did I swung the black sword Greed on my right hand. Other than Hado, I had no particular grudge toward these soldiers, so I'd like to keep them alive.

However, if the hit didn't incapacitate them, there is a chance that they will rise again and counterattack. Therefore, I used the martial art skill **[Chun Jin]** that could destroy internal organs—to break their bones. (*TL Note: In case you forgot, Chun Jin is One-Inch Punch. Acquired on ch.18*)

That one had his right arm crushed, while that other one had his left leg broken. And this fellow here broke his jaw... Even though all of them were elite soldiers, they are nothing under the huge difference of stats. At this level, even I who had no real capability in hand to hand combat could easily suppress them.

I kept throwing **[Chun Jin]** here and there. Hado's subordinates soon all sprawled on the ground, struggling in pain. The sword that was held high on their arm, now lying there uselessly.

Now, all who remained standing were only Hado and myself. Speaking of Hado, he's breathing hard with his mouth kept opened, like a fish out of the water.

When I approached him, he started to scold the subordinates to get back up and fight me again.

[What are you doing? Quick, get up and fight! Fight for the Holy Knight that is I!]

Urged by Hado, one of them actually managed to stand up. But even so, once I put the black sword Greed just an inch away from his neck, his face became pale, and he immediately turned tail. Apparently that guy did not have enough loyalty for the Burix. Running away to the forest and left his Hado-sama behind.

[Hey you! Don't run away! I'm Hado of the Burix family!]

Shi~~n. There was no reply from the bloodied subordinate.

No matter how loud Hado shouted, that subordinate seemed to have escaped too far to hear it.

It's so pitiful to see you being abandoned by your subordinates, Hado. Has the backlash from your lack of ambition kicked in?

[Damn you... are you making fun of me? I won't forgive you, you lousy monster!]

Brandishing his golden sword, Hado came upon me. His power was the only thing worth praising.

However, his knees were trembling slightly. Whether it's a fear that came by instinct, or was it just fluke, we'll find out from the fight.

There were only two of us here, no other people present. That means, no more obstacle between us.

I slowly took off my hooded cape. The skull mask that had been concealing my face follow suit afterward.

The moment he saw my real face, Hado's face distorted immensely.

[It can't be... for garbage like you, to have that kind of power... tell me!]

Did not anticipated that it was me, Hado stepped back in surprise.
So I simply shortened our distance.

[I have no reason to tell you. Besides, I'd rather you answer my question.]

[Haa... what's with that cocky attitude. Ha, if I don't want to, what will you do?]

[If you answer, I will give you a quick death. But if you don't, you'll suffer until I got the answer out of you. That's it.]

[Are you joking! I am the second son of the Burix family---Hado, the Holy Knight. Garbage like you will not be able to do that!]

[Then let's just prove it. Show it to me, that strength the holy knight is boasting about.]

I spun the black sword Greed around then turn it toward Hado, brandishing it confidently.

If I let you live longer, you'll become a problem for Roxy anyways. So, after extracting all the information I needed, I'll just kill him right here.

Surely Roxy will be sad if she knew what he's up to.

But, I've already decided. That seed I have sown, I'll take responsibility for it.

Chapter 23

Second Rank

I slowly entered a stance as I drew the tip of black sword Greed toward Hado. Also, **[Appraisal]** skill was activated.

Hado Burix Lv30

Endurance: 165600

Strength: 197600

Magic: 138400

Spirit: 150900

Agility: 167800

Skills: **Holy Sword Mastery, Physical Strengthening (Large)**

As expected from a Holy Knight. He had some attitude, he's fairly strong. However, he couldn't be compared to the Kobold Leader who was about to invade back then.

Well, I already defeated the Kobold Leader which stronger than Hado, and I even devour its soul.

It only means that I don't even need to compare him with my own stats, since I'm already twice as strong as the current Hado.

What about his skills?

I could easily tell that **Physical Strengthening (Large)** was some kind of body strengthening technique.

The Holy Sword Mastery was rather worrisome. Let's dig further using **[Appraisal]**.

Holy Sword Mastery: increased damage when wielding Holy Sword weapon. Can use ranged high-powered skill[Grand Cross].

Because they have this that they can call themselves the Holy Knight.

To use its effect, a special type of weapon called Holy Sword is needed.

These Holy Swords were said to be forged in the military district. It's so that outsiders

couldn't duplicate the technique and that most were custom made for specific user. Other than that, the ore required to forge it was the rare Orichalcon.

Well, it's all from the rumour I heard at the bar, so I don't know how accurate it is. If anything, it's impossible for commoner like me to obtain it even if I turned myself upside down. That was the Holy Sword.

I'm curious to know how it would fare against the black sword Greed that I bought for a measly two silver,

[Oy, Greed. Will that holy sword be a problem?]

{I shouldn't be inferior to such an artificial holy sword. Don't mind me, swing to your heart's content!}

I guess Greed's pride has been nicked in the wrong way. He even told me that he's better than Hado's sword.

Since you say so, why don't we give it a taste?

Having been holding our swords in a stalemate all these time, I finally broke the tension.

Fixing my sword on the mid-section, I dashed toward Hado.

Hado laughed when he saw this, as if it's what he had been waiting for.

[Idiot, attacking in a straight line. Don't you know anything about strategy? This is why people of lower strata and low intelligent always has it hard.]

I had long become numb and no longer cared being called a fool so I paid him no heed.

The so-called holy sword was emitting light. Following that, the ground area where I was running also started to shine.

[Behold, the secret Holy Sword technique—Grand Cross. Light that purifies all, erase and leave no dust at all. Fuhahaha]

I felt a massive power build up for sure. If I were to be hit directly, I might take hefty damage.

However, it was too slow in execution that it made me felt like I want to yawn... Too slow.

Because I had no need to purposely get hit, I kicked the ground and jumped.

With one hop, I bypassed the Grand Cross' area of effect, and landed right in front of Hado.

[Your technique is far too slow. You should've improved it before this.]

[What the?!]

He's a holy knight that supposedly protect the kingdom, but lacked actual combat experience. I might be on a similar level to him. No, he used a skill that is supposedly saved for a trump card at the very beginning of battle. More probably, he's even worse than me.

His plan thwarted, Hado immediately interrupt the Grand Cross' activation in confusion. Then to keep me away, he swung down his holy sword.

This is it. Let's try it and see if Greed really is stronger just like he said.

I met Hado's sword attack with my own horizontal slash.

A shrill sound of metal clashing resounded through the forest.



[Impossible... my holy sword...]

Hado's holy sword—half of it, was dancing in the air. Losing his prided sword, Hado was visibly shaken.

I grabbed the flying half of the sword with my left hand, then stabbed it to Hado's right shoulder—the gap on his heavy armor.

[Your important holy sword. Take it.]

Gyyaaaaaaaa!!!! The cry was so loud, it could've awakened all the hobgoblins sleeping in the forest, and I might still be able to hear it even from afar.

Hado who wasn't used to such pain fell to his knees, desperately trying to pull out the broken sword stuck on his shoulder

Not yet, I'm only getting started here. It's too early to kneel.
I switched the black sword into my left hand.

[Hado, that's unbecoming for a holy knight. Get up!]

I grabbed onto Hado's neck, lifting him who had seemingly lost the will to fight up. Though Hado showed some resistance to escape my grip, it's all for naught.

[Let's start the educational guidance you loved so much. A rebelling dog needs to be trampled pretty hard.]

For 5 years, I've endured the educational guidance of the Burix family. What should I do to make other people succumb... This body still remembers it well. Now, I'm just returning the favor.

[Let's begin, Hado!]

[Could it be, you... Sto, stop, uaaaaaaaaaa]

I ran through the forest with all my might, using Hado as a shield. I didn't even care if there was a huge tree on the way. I had a strong holy knight as my shield. Plowing through countless trees using Hado, I kept running without stopping.

Hado became more and more haggard every time I hit a huge tree. Both his good-looking face and blue hair slowly being scrapped away.

When I finally returned back to the flowerbed, Hado's face was almost beyond recognition, that perhaps a goblin could be considered more handsome than the current him.

[Stop... already... please]

Haa, what did you just say? Those people you treated like worms also said the same thing, asking for help... yet you never stopped.

I myself, had repeatedly come a step away from dying due to this. Now that the situation had been reversed... you actually said it so easily!?

Drowning myself in rage, I flung Hado's body to the sky as hard as I could.

While waiting for the sound of cry became more distant, the black sword morphed into a black bow.

[Greed, 3 shots. Take 30% of my stats]

{Hahaha, I'll welcome the feast. However, won't it be bad if this killed him?}

[Yeah, that's why I'll let you decide the target. Can you do that?]

{No problem. Then let's get on with it. Your 30%!}

The black bow ate away at my stats without reserve, changing shape into something that looks more vicious. With this Greed weapon, I'll pass judgment onto Hado.

Three shots were released toward Hado who had begun to free fall. Black lightning ran toward the sky with a roaring sound. They pierced through Hado, then continue speeding to the sky.

A short moment later... A wet sound could be heard coming from the middle of the flowerbed.

When I arrived there, I came upon the view of Hado who had lost his right leg and both of his arms. He's still alive. Due to holy knight's vitality, the bleeding from the wound had already stopped.

Perhaps this was quite enough. If I tortured him any further, Hado might die before I could glean any information out of him.

I changed my attitude from earlier, asking Hado with a nicer tone.

Hado in turn started to answer earnestly both out of fear and that he still wanted to live.

Firstly, Rafal and Memir were out from the city to the mountain at the far east, and they haven't returned for three months. Too bad.

Then, the most important thing. Regarding Roxy's matter.

She had a weird expression after returning back from the castle today. Let's ask the reason from a fellow holy knight.

After hearing the answer, I felt like I wanted to crush Hado's mouth. Is it really correct? Let's hear it once more.

[I'm not mistaken.... She'll depart to Gallia tomorrow.]

[Why, Roxy did that all of a sudden?]

[The Heavenly Dragon in Gallia... is currently rampaging just outside the border. At the moment, the army was preoccupied with huge number of monsters... there was no holy knight willing to fight it. Nobody wanted to die... however... someone had to do it, as it was a necessity so that huge amount of monsters wouldn't invade the kingdom.]

And for that, Roxy had been chosen? Previously, I heard about it on that midnight I spent on the commercial district, that the holy knights other than the Heart family were gathering, I guess that was to ensure their agreement in advance.

Rafal had his eyes on Roxy, it's nothing new for me.

However, with Roxy's father gone, he'd been left at large.

Roxy's father had considerable influence among the holy knights. Also, to protect other people, he's been making it hard for the holy knight to act as they like.

Because of that, I guess once he died, the resentments that had been welling up begun to overflow at once.

Not wanting to miss the chance, they sent Roxy to Gallia, then eradicate Heart family while she's away. That was what Rafal and co.—the capital holy knights had planned.

[Did Roxy acknowledge it?]

[More like she couldn't do anything... it's the consensus of all other members of the capital Holy Knights]

On that day, when Roxy went to the castle, everything had been decided in advance. It's like all other knights had cruelly told her to [Die in Gallia].

After Roxy returned to the mansion... when I recalled the expression she had in front of her father's gravestone, I felt my chest tightened.

And now Hado had told me the reason why.

[She said... if her life alone can save the people of this kingdom, she'd be happy to do so...]

If it's Roxy, although she's forced to do such thing, she'll still do it regardless. As an employee, even I could understand it despite the short time I've spent with her.

And since it's the consensus of all other holy knight... it's something I couldn't solve.

As I looked up to the sky, Hado said breathlessly.

[I've already told you what you wanted to know. How is it... can you let me go now? From now on I'll change... I'll do anything... for the people... so, please spare...]

Clear. Very clear.

It's not a sincere words, merely begging for one's life.

The black sword swooped down.

[Gluttony skill activated]

[Endurance+165600, Physical Strength+197600, Magic+138400, Spirit +150900, Agility+167800 will be applied to your stats]

[Holy Sword Mastery, Physical Strengthening (Large) will be added to your skill]

Hado's soul was unexpectedly, delicious. It almost rivalled that of the Kobold Leader. I thought that I had already gotten used to it, but it's enough to satisfy the Gluttony skill.

I wiped some saliva that dripped from my mouth with my sleeve. When I looked down on Hado's cold corpse, I felt myself feeling cold.

In the midst of that feeling, Greed called through **[Mind Reading]** skill.

{How is it? The second rank has been unlocked.What will you do?}

[Yeah, please do]

{Feeling generous aren't you? What's wrong?}

[Considering how much stats I got from Hado, I think it will be okay.]

Hearing that, Greed begun to laugh loudly.

Well, although the skills are useless for me, at least I still get to absorb some stats.

{Then, here we go!}

As the black sword started to shimmer, I felt that I begun to lose my power.

And when the light died down,

[This is... a Scythe]

It's a large scythe. Its size was even larger and taller than my own body.

{This is my second rank form, weapon type: Scythe. By putting a curse within the blade, it'll be able cut off anything no matter what.}

These are the statuses after Greed had been strengthened.

(It returned to the stat from back when he first met Greed)

Fate Graphite Lv1

Endurance: 121

Strength: 151

Magic: 101

Spirit: 101

Agility: 131

Skill: Gluttony, Appraisal, Mind Reading, Concealment, Night Vision, Martial Arts, Holy Sword Mastery, One-Handed Sword Mastery, Two-handed Sword Mastery, Physical Strengthening (Small), Physical Strengthening (Medium), Physical Strengthening (Large), Endurance Strengthening (Medium), Agility Strengthening (Medium), Auto recovery.

Chapter 24

Departure

The imminent starvation state had been avoided thanks to eating Hado's soul. My red right eye returned to its original black color as the tide ended.

Such a relief, I'd no longer have to wear an eyepatch. No need to explain it as an injury when I meet someone who knows me anymore.

By defeating Hado—one of three Burix siblings, I felt one weight that had been attached to me disappear. There were still two to go, but I can't do anything yet since they were currently not in the capital.

There was still one problem, Roxy. She'll leave for Gallia tomorrow. Perhaps only select few servants on the mansion were informed about this. Most likely those who managed other servants.

There was no way I would be told. That made me somewhat frustrated and had been piling up deep down.

Well, to them I was just a powerless human, so what's the point in telling me? Most likely, Roxy did so out of consideration for other so as not to upset anyone and raise any anxiety.

I hunted several goblins along the way, raising my previously bottomlined stats to an acceptable level. As I walked in the dark toward the mansion, Greed said,

{You want to be trusted while hiding your true identity... such arrogance}

[Shut up.]

{Give it up already. It's such a bother.}

[Then, shut it!]

People walking nearby were taken aback and gave me scrutinizing looks, since that last sentence was said in a rather loud voice. Unable to handle those gazes, I anxiously rushed back to the mansion.

I sneaked back to my room inside the mostly dark mansion through a window on the first floor.

I jumped to the bed as it is, leaving Greed on the bedside as I closed my eyes to sleep. This was weird...

I didn't feel sleepy even after working myself up taking Hado out.

The swirling thoughts didn't die out. Afterward, thinking about Roxy caused me to be unable to sleep at all, and morning came before I knew it.

{Fate, let me tell you something good. A first rate warrior can rest anytime he wants. Being disturbed by mere thought, makes you even lower than a third rate.}

{Why do you feel upset? I can't feel compassion, but you are my wielder after all!}

[Shut up]

{Hahaha, it seems you still have some spunk left. There, it has become hectic outside.}

I was so caught up with myself that I didn't notice what happened outside. I could hear footsteps from two or more person from the corridor. It was something unusual for the usually prim and proper employees here. This much running, there was only one thing that came to mind.

This morning, other employees finally been told.

I dashed up off the bed and got out from my room.

The sight of seemingly saddened employees entered my vision once I was outside. I also joined the waves of people and headed to the mansion entrance.

Roxy was being surrounded by a lot of servants.

Almost everyone directly around her was crying.

Roxy noticed me approaching, and called out to me.

[Fate, good morning]

[This... what on earth is happening here?]

She was about to depart for Gallia. I knew that already, but in front of her I still had to ask.

[This morning, and order arrived from the castle, telling me to proceed to Gallia at once. It was a great honor.]

That's not it. It had been decided from a while ago. Until this morning... this fact had been concealed from the employees in order to prevent the retainers of Heart family from rebelling. The Heart family was loved too much by the people of the kingdom after all.

Most of that feeling was directed toward Roxy who was the head of the Heart family. Concealing my real intention, I said,

[Today's Gallia is far too dangerous. Even your father...]

[Indeed it is. But where my father failed, I will prevail.]

[How long will you stay in Gallia?]

[Since there are large number of demon gathering, perhaps 3 years as usual.]

No good. If it's that long, the Heavenly Dragon will definitely attack. She'll die. It was a living natural disaster. It kills people like they were nothing. Holy knights were no exception.

[Don't give me that face, I'll be safe. Also, I want Fate to stay working in here while I'm away. That way, the Burixs won't be able to lay their hand on you again.]

[I'll also...]

[Fate, what's wrong?]

I could not say it. I couldn't ask her to bring me along.

A monster with Gluttony skill. Gaining power from eating his enemy's soul... an existence that defied the rule of god. In this world, I'm but a sinful heretic.

If this became known, I'll most likely be rejected. With that thought, my mouth was unable to move.

Leaving me, Roxy soon proceeded.

I wasn't qualified to stop her. As an employee of this mansion, I could only see her off like everyone else.

[Fate, let's meet again someday]

[...Yes, good... luck]

Roxy finally left the mansion after saying goodbye to all of the employees. Together

with other servants, I remained there until I could no longer see her in the distance.

Afterward, Roxy went to the military district and led the standing by soldiers toward Gallia.



Ignoring the still noisy employees, I returned to my room.

Greed still laid there on the bed.

I had to prepare now. But since I only had one or two sets of clothes, Greed, and the skull mask, the preparation was done in no time.

Then when I finally grabbed Greed again,

{So you have decided.}

[Yeah, I'll also go to Gallia. Not as her employee... but as a freelance warrior]

{I see}

When I got out of the room, the Head Servant was already there.

There was some sort of certificate on her hand.

[Fate, take this. It's from Roxy-sama. A recommendation letter for working in the territory.]

It's what Roxy had mentioned a while ago. However, it's no longer necessary.

[Pardon me. But I cannot accept it. I will live as warrior from now on.]

I showed her the black sword that is strapped on my waist.

[But... isn't your body weak? Becoming warrior is impossible. Take this and don't say anything else.]

After I stubbornly kept rejecting, the Head Servant took out 5 gold from her breast pocket and handed it out to me.

[I can't force you, so I guess it can't be helped. Here is the salary for working here up to this day and the retirement allowance. Use it sparingly.]

[Thank you for the kindness up to now. I'll use it sparingly.]

Since I didn't have a lot of money, this gold had saved me a lot of trouble. With this amount I could even ride a carriage instead of walking on foot.
I thanked the Head Servant, then made my leave.

On my way, I met the gardening master. He grumbled [This stupid apprentice] angrily at me.

He seriously thought me as his successor, and planned to raise me well.
Saying our goodbye, master said [If you feel like it, come back here.] to me, which I won't forget.

After bowing deeply in front of Heart mansion, I began my journey.
I made a visit to the commercial district along the way, buying some preserved foods.
I'm a big eater, so a lot of food was necessary.

Oh right. I also need to show my face there. Otherwise, they'll think I have died, and the barkeep will put flower on the reserved seat.

I stopped by to the regular drinking place. It's still early so the shop is still being prepared. Did I come at an untimely manner?... while I was thinking, the barkeeper showed his face.

[What the, it's still early morning. The bar isn't open yet.]
[No. I merely came to say goodbye.]

Hearing that, the barkeeper had an indescribable expression, then went back to the shop. What are you going to do...? After waiting for a while, he returned with a bottle of wine.

[Here, a parting gift. The wine you often drink, your favorite, right?]

I laughed instantly. I drunk wine but not because I liked it. The barkeeper also knew this, so this was more of a joke if anything.

[Come visit again next time. I'll serve different wine than this one at that time.]
[Yes, thank you very much.]

I received the bottle and shoved it into the gap on my bag. It's already filled to the brim that it seemed like it was about to burst out.

Reluctantly saying my farewell to my regular drinking spot, I marched on.

Exiting the commercial district now. From here, we'll go to Gallia by hitching a ride on the carriage.

It's somewhat nostalgic as I standing here. Carts moving in and out, warriors recruiting for goblin hunting.

It felt like it's been a long time ago since I first obtained Greed—and started hunting goblins here.

Finishing the procedure to ride in the carriage, I looked back toward the castle. I was a gatekeeper, and everything started when I killed that thief.

And now, I'm about to travel to Gallia, the origin of monsters on this kingdom.

If I say that I was a former gatekeeper, what would people think? Perhaps they'll simply tell me off as a fool.

[Dear passengers! We are about to depart!]

The carriage I took left the royal capital of Seyfat kingdom.

There were a lot of hardship, but there were also valuable memories there, on that place.

I'll return back here someday.

Until then, good bye...



PtFF by: tr4t4rA7EN